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The latest books and music

Keview

Plus: Melyyn Bragg, Dons Lessing

The wild genius

Three from Royal Green Jackets could face life sentence

Terry Gilliam interview

Frank Keating on sport and mother's ruin

Gin and isotonic

Sport backpage

Tories tout 11-plus option

John Carvel Education Editor

ILLIAN She phard, the Education Secre tary, yesterday paved the way for the gradual schooling when she said every state secondary may get the right to select its entire intake, with the option of forming local 11-plus exam consortia to pick the most

In a quickening of the pace of pre-election manoeuvres. she bowed to pressure from John Major to open clear blue water between Conservatives and Labour and revive oppor-tunities for needling Tony Blair about his choice of a partially selective grant-maintained school for his son Harman, to send her son to a

Mrs Shephard promised a white paper in June on giving all state schools greater con-trol of their budgets with a diminished role for local education authorities. It would include options for allowing more selection at 11.

Echoing the Prime Minister, she said the proposal might result in "a grammar school in every town". She wanted more grammar schools "because I think they are popular, successful and reflect parental choice. We could certainly strengthen the range and variety of schools if we made it possible for more of them to become selective." State comprehensives can select up to 15 per cent of their pupils without seeking Government ap-proval. One option would in-crease this to 100 per cent.

There would be no return to the "outmoded uniformity" of a national 11-plus examina-tion, but she would be per-fectly happy if groups of secondary schools formed local consortia to manage the examination of 11-year-olds. David Blunkett, the shadow education secretary, said Mrs

The Guardian's Richard Williams was named sports journalist of the year in last night's British Press Awards. The Guardian was commended in the national newspaper of the year category, and Larry Elliott, was commended in the business reporter of the year category.



more pupils by ability. "She knows there is no demand

reased selection." Mr Major's advisers in the rightwing think tanks said the good exam results achieved at many indepen-dent and grant-maintained schools could be spread if more schools became selec-tive. But Mrs Shephard has been suspicious of the theo-rists and preferred to concentrate on more workaday mea-sures for improving

In a lecture to the Institute of Education in London yesterday, she said: "We are not seeking to force anyone to change their admissions against their will. We wel-come any type of school -

The Government was thinking of allowing LEA schools

election, but proposals could ecome a manifesto pledges. She denied there had been a rift with Mr Major. "We are absolutely united on this and all Government policies up to and including the manifesto." David Hart, general secre-tary of the National Associa-tion of Head Teachers, said the new policy would cause instability and lower the quality of intake of a large proportion of schools. If it takes off to anything like the

of Teachers, said: "I know of no better way of sowing alarm and despondency among parents."



given in to the ludicrous pro-posals emanating from the Downing Street policy unit". During her recent consultasponses supported choosing

standards in all schools. specialist or whatever — which is providing a good

education for its pupils."
But at a subsequent pres conference she appeared to have bowed to the Prime Minister's ruling that a switch to more grammar schools was desirable and inevitable.

to take more control of their admissions procedures in-stead of following orders from education authorities.

Mrs Shephard said it would
be unlikely that legislation
would be possible before an

extent she anticipates, it will benefit a few people at the ex-pense of the overwhelming

majority."
Doug McAvoy, general sec-retary of the National Union



Justin Fowler, Geoff Pernell and Alan Ford file into the courtroom in Larnaca yesterday

Soldiers found guilty of killing

Riflemen had 'common intent' to attack tour guide in Cyprus

HREE British rifleprus were last night found to have taken part in the brutal abduction. rape and killing of a young

Danish tour guide whose bat-tered body was left on a remote building site. Alan Ford, aged 27, Geoff Pernell, 24, and Justin Fowler, 28, of the Royal Green Jackets, had denied withi Jackets, had denied wilful manslaughter, kidnap, and conspiracy to rape but the court found they had "common intent".

active part in the assault to attain their illegal purpose. The accused formed the com-mon intent to assault the victim and abduct her with the

intent of rape."

He said Ford, from Suttor Coldfield, in the West Mid-lands, had taken part in the abduction of Louise Jensen, and had admitted hitting her several times with a spade. Fowler, from Falmouth, in Corowall, had tried to prove

he did not take part in the assault and never had a posi-tive role, the judge added. His claim that he was "an obedient dog" to the command of others was dismissed.

Judge Takis Eliades said: The judge said of Pernell,
"All the accused took an from Oldbury, in the West

Midlands: "We have never blows from a spade, crushing come across such detailed elo-her skull. ovence of a death rattle and the agony of a person [dying]. We can not conceive how it

could have been given unless a person was near to the vic-tim and had his senses con-centrated on the events unfolding before his eyes."

The men are expected to be entenced later today . The maximum sentence for man-

slaughter in Cyprus is life, but it can often mean no more than eight years in prison. Ms Jensen, aged 23, from Denmark, was riding pillion passenger on her Cypriot boy-friend's motorcycle in the early hours of September 13, 1994 when the soldiers' car

She was dragged away, sex-ually assaulted and battered to death on a remote building site. Her body received 15

swerved into them.

The verdict followed a 14 hour sitting of Larnaca Assize Court. The 167-page summary was read out section by sec tion in Greek by Judge Eliades, then translated into English by an interpreter.

arrested within an hour of the killing — spattered with Ms Jensen's blood — and later confessed to the kidnapping,

the trial lasted nine months. Much of the delay was due to appeals by the men's law-yers on the technical admissi-bility of evidence. The case has cost the Ministry of De-fence hundreds of thousands of pounds in legal aid for the accused, and the final bill could reach £1 million if there is a further appeal.

Hogg holding package bans sale of meat from older cattle

THE Government last night banned the sale of meat from cattle aged over 30 months as part of a holding operation to try to restore consumer confidence and save thousands of jobs in the

beef industry.
Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, outlined the package, which is a temporary measure while more detailed measures are being the Government still believed worked out, in a statement to that, provided the very tight

MPs. He flies to Brussels controls now in place were today to meet Commissioner fully implemented, "the risks of eating British beef today ground for Monday's emergency meeting of the EU agri-

culture council.

Mr Hogg also announced the banning of feed stuffs for farm animals using mammalian meat and bonemeal, and extended controls to cover heads and lymph glands. He admitted: "If the market remains depressed these measures are not going to be suffi-

cient in themselves." He said

use ordinary language: Brit-ish beef is safe."

The ban on cattle over 30 months — whose meat goes into pies, sausages, and ani-mal food — will remain until measures announced last week come into effect. Other ☐ £1.5 million of British Gov-

ernment subsidy will be paid each week to help safeguard 3,000 jobs in the rendering industry, which disposes of the

waste from staughterhouses;
□ £50 million of European
Union money to be made
available each year to farmers for the slaughter (within
10 days of their birth) of
young male calves from dairy herds, many of which used to be shipped abroad: ☐ Livestock farmers will receive an extra £35 million

in EU money in "final hea-dage payments" the ministry will send out next week.

Sketch, page 2; Braced for

Inside

A man was awarded record damages against the police. yesterday when a: jury decided he had been assaulted and wrongly arrested

World News The African

National Congress took a big step towards control of the economy: when Mandela named his finance minister

The electricity Grand National second favourite and water company-United Utilities La Stregone is out is to raise prices of the race; as is his jackey by 5 per cent after announcing 1,700 Jamie Osbome after a fall

Comment and Letters 8 Obituaries 10 Crossword 15 Weather 16 Radio 16; TV 16

BT on verge of creating £33bn world empire

Micholas Bannisber echnology Editor

on the brink of mergmain rival in Britain, which would create a £33 billion worldwide telecommunica-

tions empire capable of out-stripping its European and American competitors. C&W, the owners of Mer-cury, confirmed last night that takeover talks had resumed. The original talks earlier this month had agreed on the structure of the deal but had failed on price.

As reports spread through the stock market that a deal would be announced today, the shares of both companies soared, valuing C & W at £11.3 billion and BT at £21.9 billion by the end of yes-terday. BT, however, in a late statement, stressed that only exploratory talks were taking

Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, has been seeking control of C&W to increase his group's presence in the Asia Pacific region through C & W's highly profitable 57 per cent stake in Hongkong But his attempts had been rebuffed by C & W's previous

management team headed by chairman Lord Young, the forindustry secretary, and managing director James Ross.
BT made a new approach after the two men were asked to leave the group at the end of last year after a boardroom row over the way the group was run. The two sides had then agreed to merge and that Sir Iain and Sir Peter Bon-

and chief executive of the new group.

It was also agreed that C & W, the smaller company, would bid for BT. If BT bid for for call, page 11

field, BT's new chief execu-tive, would become chairman

C & W it would have had to spend an extra £6 billion bid-ding for the minority stake in Hongkong Telecom. But industry sources said BT was not prepared to pay C & W's

asking price of 600p a share. City fund managers said last night they would be happy with a merger provid-ing BT did not overpay. They said BT had consulted them about a renewed merger attempt.
They presumed that BT had

already lined up buyers for the parts of C&W which would have to be sold for monopoly reasons — essentially the 80 per cent stake in Mercury Communications and the 50 per cent holding in the Mercury One-2-One mobile phone business. BT wants to expand its

overseas operations to offset increasingly tight price con-trols on its main British business. Last week Don Cruick-shank, the director general of Oftel, indicated that the group would have to continue to cut prices until 2001. City sources believe B7

wants to agree a merger with C&W before July when it will have to decide whether to challenge the regulator's plans for price controls and new powers to clamp down on what Mr Cruickshank sees as anti-competitive practices.

BT, which makes annual Britain's telecom market. In recent years it has expanded overseas. It paid £2.7 billion for a 20 per cent stake in MCL

the second largest long-dis-tance carrier in the United C& W has a large internaoperations in Hong Kong and the Caribbean. But it failed to build Mercury into a com-pany capable of challenging



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Sketch

Hysteria gets over-cranked



Simon Hoggart

ORY MPs could not de-cide yesterday who to blame more for the beef crisis - the European Commission or Harriet Harman. Like a savage dog faced with a choice between a bone and a mangy cat, they turned first one way, then the other, and

finally settled for snarling an-grily at both. The one body which appeared to be entirely blame less was the Government it-self. (Curiously, as Michael White reports elsewhere, the reviled Ron Davies, then Labour's agriculture spokes man, predicted all this would occur if government policies were pursued, back in 1989. But then Mr Davies is Old Labour, and so is ignored by

both sides.) Angela Browning, the junior agriculture minister, was driven to gibberish by the iniquities of the commission and its advisers. "The deci-sion-making of the scientists has not been made by scien-tific decision-making," she declared.

But somehow, even Conser-vatives find it hard to work up as much hatred for Europe as they do for Ms Harman. There is something about her selfassurance, her sensible cos-tumes, and her smug little smile which makes them want to smash her in the face with

to smash her in the face with their loathing.
"Disgraceful and quite irre-sponsible scare-mongering," said Richard Spring, "A hys-terical reaction," said Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minis-ter. (He would look so much happier in a wig, sucking up to some sarcastic judge. He even stands in a lawyer's posture. flopped over the dispatch box, left foot twisted on top of

When his opposite number, Gavin Strang — he has been remarkably calm, even narco-leptic, throughout the crisis suggested a "more construc-tive approach". Tories yelled

First night

Michael Billington

HERE is obviously a

sion. Unfortunately Nigel Wil-liams's Harry and Me is not it.

It is a desperately strenuous

rately constructed hammer to

crack some very small nuts.

show. In fact we only meet

We are in the underpopulated office of an ailing chat

three characters: Ray, the con-

trol-freak producer, Tracy, his long-suffering researcher,

action consists of the frenzied

attempts by Ray and Tracy to

rescue the programme's next edition by keeping the sui-

and narrow and by contacting

Ray spends all his time jug-

gling phone calls and working himself into rages. Meanwhile

from every region and nationality in order to get through to

Williams's message is clear enough — that TV people live in a goldfish bowl world of

their own and are so busy con-

structing an artificial reality

Tracy is driven to do phone

impersonations of people

the pop star and his agent.

cidal Harry on the straight

a defecting guest, a pop star who has never had a hit.

and the show's debilitated

host, Harry Harrod. The

affair that takes an elabo-

sharp and witty satire to

be written about televi-

Royal Court, London

Trivial pursuit

Harman, Harman!" at him. Suggestions that ministers might be to blame in any way evinced a chorus of rage. They are building up the scare, turning it into a party political brickbat campaign! Mrs Browning raved. (A brickbat, incidentally, is a brick, not a bat. I am not sure one could say the same of Mrs Browning.)

She finally reached the bel-fry when Labour's Elliot Mor-ley suggested, quietly enough, that it might be an idea to take up quality assurance schemes. 'Yet another Labour pokesman cannot resist the temptation to add his five-per nyworth of party politics! It's a disgrace!" I suspect a doctor should take a look at Mrs Browning's spinal cord,

pronto.
But she was sweet reason
compared to the Prime Minister. What do they put in the
All-Day Breakfast he likes to eat — dangerously often — in motorway service stations? Mr Blair wanted his reac-tion to Labour's plan for

restoring confidence in beef.

This was enough to make the Tory backbenchers spume with fury.

"Speak for Brussels!" they yelled, causing Betty Boothroyd to shut them up, though in my experience Mr Blair car look after himself. He just goes on repeating what he's said until the TV has got what they call "a clean feed". (That is, so there is no scrapie in his chanically-recovered

Mr Major produced a proportionate response —or what would have been proportionate to a suggestion that dis-eased toads should be added to the food chain.

He denounced the Labour plan thus: "It's a mixture of motherhood, action that is al-ready being taken, and largely misses many of the matters that need to be dealt with."

Is upone "mother hood"
was short for "mother hood
and apple pie," and translates
as "things we all agree on anyway." But who can tell what is
passing through those spongy synapses these days? Mr Blair called his respons "pathetic" and Mr Major called the Labour paper "pa-

But of course, unlike Ms Harman, there was nothing remotely party political about what Mr Major said.

that they are in danger of be-

since he constantly stresses

that mountainous energy is



Louise Jensen and (below) boyfriend Michaelis Vassiliades

On a hot night in Cyprus two summers ago, three British riflemen were out on a crawl of the bars. Louise Jensen was with her boyfriend on his





No truce in off-duty war

Danish tour guide Louise Jensen was bludgeoned death with an army-issue spade, British squaddies are still brawling in the beach-side bars of Cyprus. Her killing, fuelled by fero-

cious intakes of cheap alcohol and the brooding boredom which infects off-duty servicemen, has been portrayed as

tween Cyprus and the United Kingdom military bases. The drink-sodden cruelty of the night-time killing was in such contrast to the Club Med But in attacking the devour ing obsessiveness of TV, Wilholiday atmosphere of the island that few have resisted liams himself falls victim to it drawing broader conclusions from the grim sequence of

23-year-old working in the resort of Ayia Napa, shocked

Cyprus, which has been ac-customed to a low crime rate.

expended on a totally trivial chat show, we are driven to For many observers of the nine-month trial, it was not only the three, smartly turned out privates from the ask why we ourselves should become interested in it. In fact, the bottom end of the market is too soft a target: Wil-liams's play would have far Royal Greenjackets who were more pungency if he showed how even the best pro-grammes can eat people alive. in the dock at Larnaca Assize Court. At stake also was the reputation of the British By focusing so narrowly on a failing chat show, he ignores Army and its presence in the Sovereign Base Areas at Ak-rotiri and Dhekelia.

all the big issues such as the The bases, which cover 99 square miles, were granted to politics, the finances and the ratings mania of a rapidly-changing industry. In James Macdonald's pro-Britain in 1960 as a condition of the colony obtaining its in-dependence. Since then they duction the actors work overtime to keep the balls in the air. Ron Cook makes the most have been a source of regular friction between locals and British military authorities. The 7.000 Cypriots who live in of Ray's bursts of scatological fury, and Sheila Hancock as Tracy does a series of dazzling the enclaves, and those who pass through, are subject to British regulations and claim vocal impressions while still making you believe in the brush regulations and claim they are barassed by soldiers. But even by the chequered record of off-duty servicemen on the island, what happened in the early hours of Septem-ber 13, 1994, stands apart. The abduction of Louise Jensen, a woman's innate sadness. Dud-ley Sutton also looks in to good effect as the bemused, alcoholic host. It is not the actors' fault that the play has

The Larry Sanders Show. This review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper.

an air of desperation and tells

you less about the madness of television than half an hour of

mark, wanted to see the world. After school and work as a nursing auxiliary, she se-cured a job with the Danish travel firm Fritidsresor.

Cyprus was her first for eign posting in February 1994. Within a few months she had variable a boyfriend, a 21-year-old waiter, Michaelis Vassiliades, who worked at the Patio Mazeri restaurant in Ayia Napa.

Fowler and Geoff Pernell had town to quench their thirst.

At the Jasmin pub, Fowler and Pernell downed at least five pints each of John Smith ale, then moved on to tequilas. Ford prefered Jack Daniels whisky. In Ayia Napa's main square, nicknamed the Battlefield because it was the scene of so many punchups involving tourists, sol-diers and locals, they carried on dancing and swearing. In the Volcano pub Pernell told a group of English tour

his statement, Fowler said he was "going to get himself a woman for the night". Ford added that it was a "good

bike with Louise sitting be hind him. The Mini-Moke pulled out ahead of them but swerved as they tried to overtake. It sent them sprawling. Louise, caught under the machine, at first thought it was a

that night to run into the three drunken riflemen. Pri-

spent the early evening swimming and had stopped in the

ists that he wanted to "slar some women tonight". Later they drove in Fowler's yellow Mini-Moke to an automated petrol station on the outskirts of town. In

At that moment, Vassi-liades rode up on his motor

But the beach-buggy



Police carry Louise Jensen's body to a hospital morgue

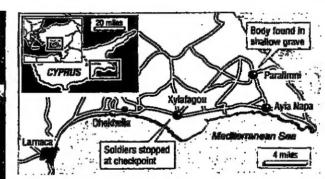
dragged off, crying for help. It was two days later that searchers found her battered body hidden under a pile of soil on a building site. Her face was so mutilated that she had to be identified by her

Exactly what happened after she was snatched can only be reconstructed from the conflicting statements of the three men. Fowler claimed that after trying to have sex with her, he went back to his car and watched from the mirror as Ford and Pernell raped her. "I saw Per-

Pernell jumped out brandishing a shovel. Vassiliades was chased off. His girlfriend was struck over the head and police. "I asked them where

the woman was. Pernell said: 'Don't worry, it's sorted'. Ford said: 'We buried her'.' In Ford's own account, he picked up the shovel and hit her. "It didn't work. As she shouted something in a for-eign language, I hit her again and she slumped sideways."

One of his colleagues wouldn't say who — snatched the shovel from him and carried on battering her body. Then they dragged her away and covered her with soil. On the way back to Dhekelia, 'splattered with blood, they were intercepted at a police



were taken up with debates over the effect of alcohol. One defence psychiatrist maintained: "They did what they But it also emerged that

Ford, now 27, from Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, had been facing a charge of assault after allegedly slashing a tourist's face with a glass a month before the killing. Ford told the court: "It was not unusual for me to lose

days or parts of days because of the amount of alcohol I Fowler, 28, of Falmouth, Cornwall, and Pernell, 24, of

Oldbury, West Midlands, had evidently been on previous pub crawls. The Ministry of Defence is determined to play down the image of yobbish violence exposed up by the case. "All pro-fessions drink," explained an army press officer. "It's tenu-ous to link soldiers with alco-

sentative. Whereas on active service, in Bosnia for example, sol-diers are limited to a specific two cans of beer a night, there are no limits on alcoholic intake for servicemen off-duty

Others within the defence community, such as the Sol-diers, Sailors and Airmen's

Several days of the hearing | Family Association, which supports service personnel are less relaxed about the mixture of single men and aps re

The clashes between sol-diers and civilians in Cyprus since the death of Louise Jensen reinforce their concern. In early 1995 another drunken Royal Greenjacket was involved in a hit-and-run crash, killing two Pakistani students

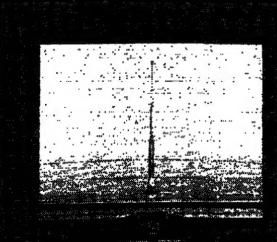
This year the newly arrived First Battalion, King's Regi-ment was banned from selected night-spots because selected hight-spots because of brawling. Within hours of the ban being lifted, they were at it again. One victim, a British holidaymaker, spent four days in hospital for the beating he received.

The MoD while admitting

The MoD, while admitting that clashes are running at soldiers are often innocent victims. "A lot of Cypriot youths like to vent their machismo on servicemen.

The case has provided the Committee Against British Policy group, which cam-paigns for withdrawal of Brit-ish troops from the island, with a fresh platform.

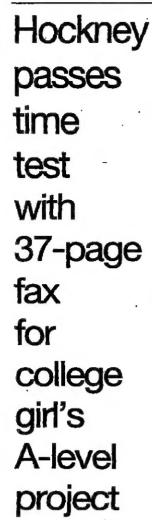
While many Cypriots bene-fit from jobs the British presence brings, the death of Louise Jensen has undoubt-edly joited the relationship between the UK and Cyprus.

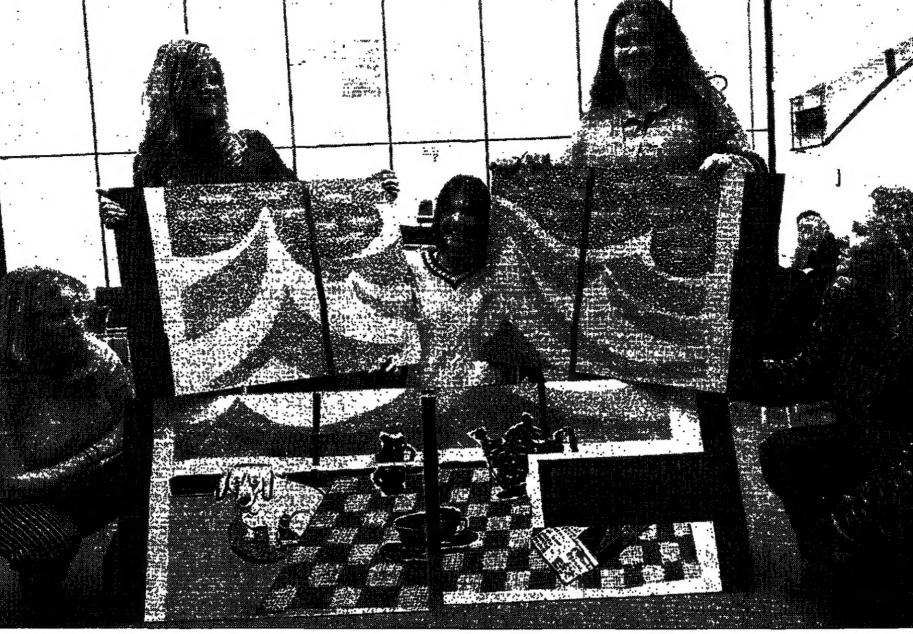


Where's the best place to talk to people about cars?

Cars.

People in cars can't read and they can't watch TV. But they can listen to Commercial Radio. And they do. Fifteen million of them each week. Commercial Radio. Its time has come.







Richards, whose message to Hockney, below, resulted in the faxed artwork, Breakfast with Stanley in Malibu, which Sarah and schoolfriends are seen assembling at Truro College, Cornwall, left



Edward Pilkington on telephonic art

SHE wasn't really expecting anything. At pecting anything. At page was followed by best, a few scribbled words from David Hockney to include in her mock A level art project.

So Sarah Richards, aged she visited the 1853 gallery in Salt's Mill. Bradford.

A level art project. So Sarah Richards, aged 18, was overjoyed when a

in Salt's Mill, Bradford which houses Hockney spilling out of a machine in works, and spotted his Cali-the art department at fornian fax number on an Truro College, Cornwall. exhibit.

Back home in Cornwall she sent him a message requesting a small contri-bution towards an essay she was writing about his work. Receiving no response, she wired a second fax in which had the audacity to set him a time limit. "I asked him to reply by the 27th as it would help my studies. As it happened, he

replied straight away - he bviously works better to a deadline." On Tuesday Hockney's

fax began to arrive, spew-ing paper all over the art room floor. There were 37 pages — 36 of which were pieces of a drawing measuring 3ft by 4ft — though two other sections bad gone

The 37th page was a note with instructions on how to put the picture together. "Dear Sarah, I am sending you some large fax pic-tures, I hope they give you pleasure — David H." it said. The drawing, Break-fast with Stanley in Malibu,

from his studio overlooking

his two much loved and oft portrayed dachshunds. The medium of the fax be-The medium of the fax became a preoccupation with Hockney in 1988. He calls it a "hearing phone for the deaf", a reference to his own deteriorating hearing. A few years ago he said the fax would overcome censor-ship and herald the end of depicts Hockney's view

uns the 1853 Gallery, commenting on his response to Sarah, said: "It's typical of David --- be is very humane and charming." He recalled how he first met Hockney more than 30 years ago when he was 13

"David had just won a

Jonathan Silver, who college of Art and I wrote to ask him to design a cover for my class magazine at Bradford Grammar. He sent an original gouache by post."

That painting still hangs on the school's wall. Meanwhile, Truro College is planning to show Sarah Richard's fax at an open

MPs rebuke security chiefs over CIA agent's betrayal

MPs concerned at damage done to British interests by US spy

The committee given by Stella it was concerned "at what appear to be significant lapse in the procedures for the briefing of ministers on an area of such considerable and Security Committee, said it was concerned "at what appear to be significant lapse in the procedures for the briefing of ministers on an area of such considerable and Security Committee, said it was concerned "at what appear to be significant lapse in the procedures for the briefing of ministers on an area of such considerable and security Committee given by Stella mot passing on relevant information to Mi6. Referring to exited and three were imprisoned".

The committee were imprisoned".

The committee size were not secured and three were imprisoned".

The committee size were not specific about the agent imprisoned".

The committee size were not specific imprisoned".

The committee secured and three were imprisoned.

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y war

a committee of senior parliamentarians for failing to investigate potentially serious damage done to British interests by the CIA agent, Aldrich Ames, and failing to plications of his eight years' Tom King, chairman of the

MI6 were severely rebuked yesterday by a committee of senior lentarians for failing tigate potentially serinage done to British by the CIA agent, Ames, and falling to histers about the importance with a decivities, and the anion of the committee, and the anion of the committee, and the anion of the committee, and the anion of the committee and an area of such considerable security importance.

The committee, which includes four former Tory ministers, said that MI6, which works closely with the CIA, agents of damage done to British interests by [Ames's] traitorous activities, and the anion of the committee and an area of such considerable security importance.

The committee, which includes four former Tory ministers, said that MI6, which works closely with the CIA, agents.

It is unacceptable that two years after a major betrayal, the Americans have still not provided the UK agencies with a detailed read-out of the damage and the tailed read-out of the damage and the tailed read-out of the tailed

terests by [Ames's] traitorous ligence" — information proactivities, and the extent to vided by sources comprowhich 'tainted' intelligence information ... may have reached British ministers".

Referring to evidence to the ligence interests.

Referring to evidence to the ligence information prowhich 'tainted interests ligence" — information provided by sources compromised by Ames to the his 10 years of treachery,
Ames handed over to the Russians the identities of 13 CIA
signs and the extent to vided by sources comproinformation proligence" — information proligence — information — information — information proligence — information — information proligence — information — i

John Major approved its pub-lication with some passages excised. In a letter to Mr King, Mr Major said he "feels satisfied that ministers were adequately briefed", and

the central question of how busy ministers are informed about what the security and intelligence agencies are up to. It added it was not satis-

that intelligence distribution to ministers had been improved. Mr King, a former North-ern Ireland secretary, said

Intelligence and Security Committee, Annual Report 1995, HMSO, £5. MI5, The Security Service,

Feminists fall out over chores

Angella Johnson

N unprecedented war of words has erupted mong a group of feminist academics about whether the majority of women prefer to stay at home and look after children rather than 90 to

Catherine Hakim, a senior research fellow at the London School of Economics, has caused uproar among feminists by saying that only a small number of women were

Challenging a long-standing feminist assumption that given a level playing field signed by 11 eminent scademics.

work, she claimed most did not want to work at all. "The unpalatable truth is that a substantial proportion of all women had the same aims

Those who tried to combine career and family still accepted that the domestic chores were more their res-ponsibility than their male partner's, whose role is to be the breadwinner. "The pro-portion of women who accept the homemaker role varies from half to two-thirds."

Yesterday Dr Hakim was forced to defend her views, published in the British Jour nal of Sociology, after the publication of a critique

women still sees homemaking as women's principal activity and income earning as men's principal activity in life," she sexual division of labour, many actively preferring it and colluding with men, others not sufficiently incon-venienced by it to make a

stand," she argued. She cited a survey in 1986 which showed that two-thirds of British men and women believe that being a housewife can be as fulfilling as paid

Dr Hakim insisted that the female population is polarising into careerist women and home-centered women, often with conflicting interests. The former Employment Department sociologist admitted that her views had made her unpopular and that some academics had refused

The 11 sociologists have written a reply in which they criticise her for failing to document or give evidence for her arguments. "Hakim's eminist is, of course, a cari

cature," they say.

The critique, also published in the British Journal of Sociology, further accused Dr Hakim of not taking into ac-count economic influences. count economic influences.
Irene Bruegel, of the University of the South Bank in
London, said: "The myths
about women and work are
all of her making."
Another critic, Ceridwen
Roberts, director of the Fam-

ily Policies Study Centre said: "I regret that Catherine has made a media fight over what is an academic discus-sion. In the process the sub-tleties of the debate are now



It's nothing to what you'll save later.

ers in southern Europe and Greece to do nothing than to continue with the subsidy system.

The researchers said that lion a year on smoking the continue with the subsidy system. Chris Mihill

EU 'wastes £800m a year' on subsidies to tobacco farmers

SUBSIDIES worth 5900 mil-lion a year paid by the European Union to keep tobacco farmers in work are an economic nonsense, a mis-use of public funds and encourage the dumping of a le-

A report in the British Medical Journal argued it would be cheaper to pay £3,000 a and Martin Raw, of King's year directly to tobacco farm-College Medical School, Lon-

1,000 million Ecu (£800 million) a year — the equivalent of £2 million a day — is being spent to produce a crop worth £75 million. But nobody wants the European tobacco, so it is effectively given away thal product on poor so it is effectively given away countries, doctors said to North Africa, Russia and eastern European countries. Luk Jossens, of the Interna tional Union Against Cancer,

prevention.
Although production has

to talk to her.

dropped since 1991. 328,000 tonnes of low grade tobacco leaf were grown by European farmers in 1994, predomi-nantly in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece. Tobacco subsidies account for 3.1 per cent of the Common Agricul-The report says that aside £3,000 a year for doing from moral questions, the sys-

crop worth £2 million. Dr Raw, a senior lecturer inpublic health, said that on average each tohacco farmer received £5,000 a year from the EU, but after the expense of growing the crop was left with a profit of £3,000.

"It would be cheaper, and certainly better for health, simply to send each of them

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The mixture of Collins and Tarantino is heady, however much one wants to question it, and these moderns think and speak like the post-Freudians they cannot fail to be.

Review page 13

Hairdresser who claimed that officers assaulted, abused and wrongly arrested him reaps £220,000 award in civil suit Historic

Police must pay record damages

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

record damages of £220,000 against the police yesterday after assaulted and wrongly

The sum more than doubles the previous record award by

In the first case Kenneth
Hsu, aged 32, a hairdresser
and landlord of Streatham,
south London, claimed at
as a victory by the officers in-Central London county court that he was violently as-saulted and abused by police who arrested him outside his home in July 1992.

Officers from Streatham police station had gone to Mr Hsu's bome in connection with a dispute involving a

He was arrested when he declined to let them into his

house without a warrant.

The court was told that Mr
Hsu was manhandled into a police van. where he was punched, kicked, hit with keys across his head and used as a foot-stool by the officers. He was held at the station but eventually released without

One officer thanked him for the overtime payment he would get, and another told him he was "the first Chinky" he had arrested, the

He was later treated at King's College hospital, where he was found to have

but no action was taken against the officers, who all denied his claims. He then

wards QC, the jury of five women and three men awarded \$20,000 compensatory damages and £200,000 exemplary damages. The judge stayed payment of damages beyond £50,000 pending

appeal.

Mr Hsu's harrister, Ben
Emerson, had told the jurors: The officers involved in this case are guilty of a cynical, deliberate and malicious

In a separate case yesterday, against other officers from the same station, a man was awarded damages of the commissioner that the public will no longer tolerate before will no longer tolerate lying, bullying, perjury and racism by officers of the Metropoli-

> volved. Even a moderately large award would be greeted with relief at Streatham

police station.
"It is only if you award damages on an unprece-dented scale that you can be told of your award, will take note of it and will act on it." After the case, Mr Hsu, who came to England from Hong

Kong nine years ago, said:
"Finally I've got justice. I still
don't understand why the
police did what they did."
His solicitor, Sadiq Khan,
said the police should launch
an inquiry into the incident.

"By awarding those damages the jury clearly wanted to make an example of the

Last night, a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said an appeal would be lodged against the award. No disciplinary action had been taken against any officers involved nor would it

In the second case in the where he was found to have extensive bruising to his back and kidneys and was passing blood.

He has since suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, which was accepted by the both cides were accepted by the streath of the strea both sides' medical experts.

Mr Hsu complained to the Police Complaints Authority

had arrested Mr Winyard in August 1991, assaulted him and maliciously charged him with assault and possession of an offensive weapon.

He was acquitted by Camberwell Green magistrates, south London, in April 1992.



Kenneth Hsu . . . 'kicked, punched and used as foot-stool', he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder after arrest at his home

their adoption services and

Adoption bill to answer child's needs

Ministers intend to clear away barrier of 'political correctness'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

DOPTION should be seen as the only practi-cal and long-term answer to the needs of many children, ministers said yes-terday as they published a bill to overhaul adoption pro-cesses and guidance to clear the "roadblock of political

ever, that they were not in-tending to force single moth-ers to be to hand over their babies rather than keep them

or opt for abortion.

John Bowis, junior health minister, said: "There is no question of any mother, single or married, being pressurised to give up a child."

The Adoption Bill is set out in a consultation document Adoption - A Service for Children, which is open for

correctness".

Together, the measures represent a concerted attempt to rehabilitate adoption as a common and positive recourse after almost 30 years of decline.

encourage more families — especially from ethnic com-munities — to consider adoption; a complaints system, in cluding independent assess to allow step and foster-parents to adopt.

About one in two adoptions is now by step-parents, the total number of adoptions having fallen from almost 25,000 in England and Wales in 1968 to fewer than 7,000 in 1993.
The bill allows a court to

order that a child be placed for adoption without consent of the parent or guardian as long as it is satisfied it is in the child's best interests. be ruled out on grounds of

age.
The guidance also says that while same-race placements "may well be most likely to best meet a child's needs", there should be no bar on mixed-race placements.
Mr Laming says: "It is a

often cases are drawn to the attention of the (health) department about unfair and distressing experiences of some prospective adopters, who have felt that they have been dealt with in an insensi-

The guidance reasserts the Government's ban on unmarcommon and positive checklist against which adoptecourse after almost 30 years of decline.

Ministers stressed, how
Checklist against which adoptecourse after almost 30 years assess a child's interests; a Herbert Laming, chief inspectation applications, stating decline.

The guidance, sent to local ried couples making joint authorities last month by adoption applications, stating married parents offer most of the Social Services Inchildren the best chance of

spectorate, says prospective successful development. It adoptive parents should not says placement with a single says placement with a single adopter may exceptionally be tion about "all persons in the household" must be assessed.

Both the guidance and the bill make provision for a duty on local authorities to offer a service for people wishing to adopt from overseas. Labour welcomed the bill, but Alan Milburn, shadow welfare of the child, not politi-cal ideology, has to be at the heart of Britain's adoption laws and practices."

Children; Department of Health PO Box 410, Wetherby LS23 7LN; free

college saved

David Fairhall

HE University of Greenwich. south London, appears certain to take over the naval college there, but only as tenant of an independent trust charged with preserving Sir Christopher Wren's historic buildings.

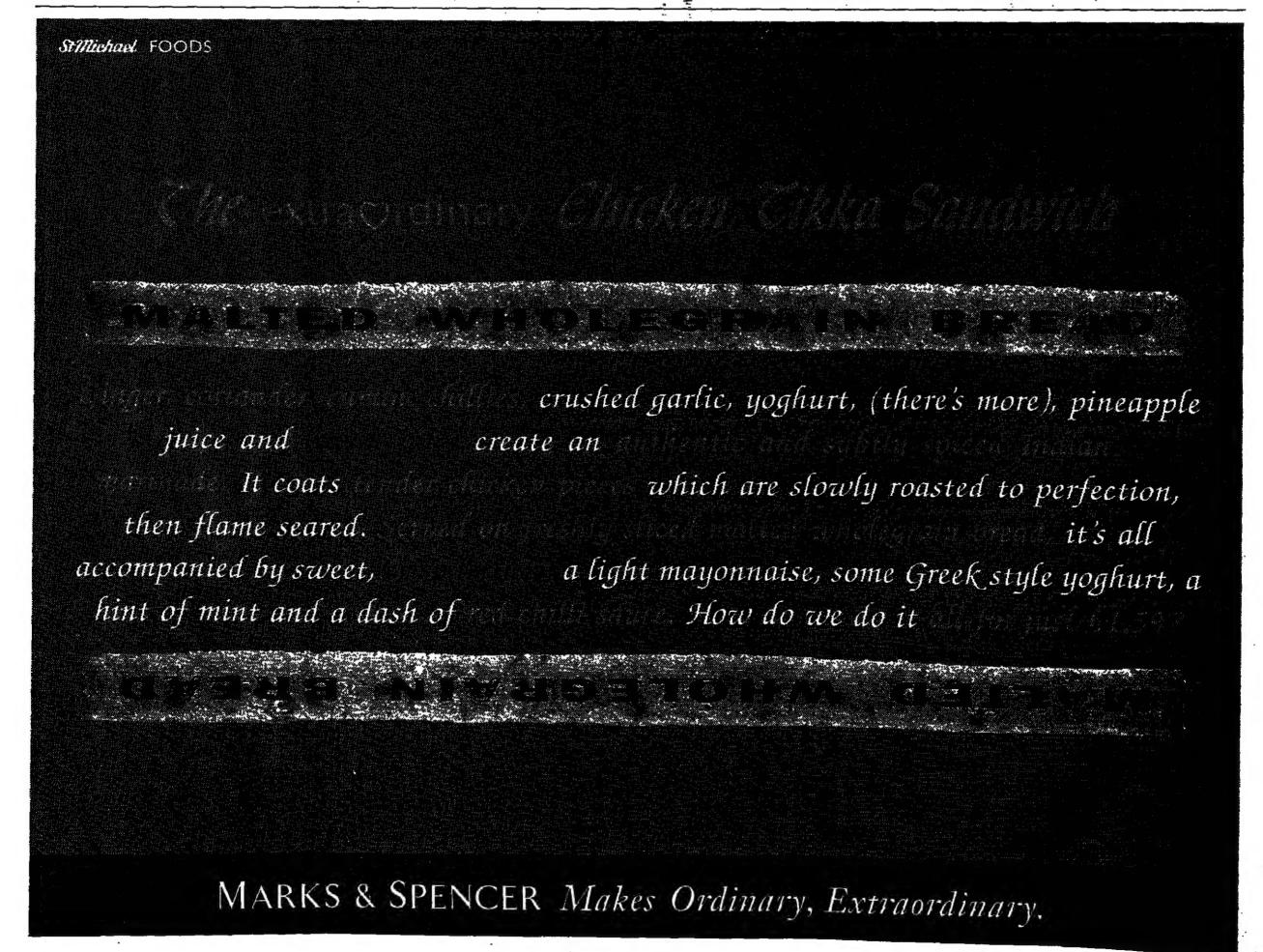
The arrangements were announced yesterday by the Defence Secretary Michael Portillo. putting an end to fears that the 18th century Thameside site might be sold to a private developer. His decision follows the recommendations of a private developer. dations of an advisory group set up to consider the future of the college now the Royal Navy no longer needs it, and was welcomed yesterday by the university and the National Maritime Museum, which will share

the buildings. The main leaseholder from the MoD will be "an independent trust charged with preserving its archi-tectural and historic integrity, with proper mainte-nance of the buildings and with ensuring public ac-cess". Mr Portillo said in answer to a parliamentary

The announcement was welcomed last night by the university's deputy vice-chancellor, John McWil-

The university, founded in 1890 as the Woolwich Polytechnic, operates 15 sites around south-east London. It plans to move its administrative headquarters and half its business school into the college buildings, along with an ex-tension of the maritime museum in the park opposite and the Maritime Trust, which maintains the Cutty Sark clipper ship on

display. Mr McWilliam said the university hopes to take up residence in the autumn of 1997 as the navy moves out. One part of the naval college will be converted by the Greenwich hospital charity to provide shelretired scafarers and their



Europe braces for slaughter

John Palmer in Turin, Michael White

free fall in beef prices throughout Europe reached Turin, EU govern-ments braced themselves to provide massive financial aid from the Brussels budget to fund the slaughter of British collapsing European beef

Senior European diplomats in Turin for the inter-govern-mental conference last night said that only drastic action from London, backed by the rest of the European Union, could restore the confidence throughout Europe. Britain's fight-back began

including options for the slaughter of BSE-infected cattle. It continued in the House of Commons as Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg made announcements designed to boost confidence in British beef at home and abroad.

But consumers all over Europe have been demon-strating their lack of faith in the assurances of any govern-ment or EU official about the safety of beef, concerned that farming practices that led to the British crisis may have

been adopted elsewhere.

The meltdown in consumer confidence threatens disaster for the EU's \$31 billion common agricultural policy, as European farmers risk financial ruin because of a collapse

An emergency meeting of farm ministers in Brussels on

Leading processing firm to lay off 400

ORE than 400 workers at a leading meat pro-cessor are to be laid off temporarily and the company's three auction houses closes permanently because of the BSE crisis, it was revealed

last night.
ANM Group, Europe's biggest livestock auction company, which employs 530 workers, is to shed most of its workforce until

With the cost of slaughter es-timated as high as £6 billion

for Britain alone, all the pro-

jected underspending in the EU budget would be wiped

out if Brussels paid 50 per cent of the bill.

British beef is restored. The firm, parent com-pany of Scotch Premier Meat, which has processing plants at Inverurie near Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Sheffield, said the decision imation of the UK beef

It said its auction mar-kets at Cornhill, Maud and

part on the tone he adopts at the summit meeting today. Everyone will listen sympathetically. Recriminations are not for now," a senior Italian diplomat said. "This summit was meant to be about building a more united Europe. Perhaps some people now recwill close in the next few weeks to reduce costs after the drastic reduction in an-Every day that passes the

imals being sold.
Confirming the lay-offs at
Scotch Premier Meat
plants, it said that the past
week had been "a total nontrading period, with stocks increasing as lorries return they have been rejected".

ognise more clearly the need for that kind of unity." Almost four out of every 10 danger because of BSE, according to a poll released yesterday. The survey, carried out for the state-owned RAI

shopkeepers' association. Conferesercenti, reported sales of beef down 40 per cent nationwide. In some areas, the fall had been as much as 80 per cent

situation is becoming more serious. It's a disaster", said Pietro Coletto, the chairman of Italy's biggest livestock sociazione Carni Trivenete ture commissioner said: "The European citizen is justifiably extremely nervous. We have a crisis of confidence on our hands. Consumers have lost faith in the safety of beef

challenging the credibility of scientific knowledge." Philippe Vasseur, said that driven by "fantasy and irra-

Roberto Micelli, chairman | tionality" and the top priority of the butchers' section of the | for Europe was to restore consumer confidence. French beef sales have dropped nearly a third.

Germany's beel eating was estimated to have dropped 70 per cent in the first week. The German Mest Society, says that sales have now returned to around one third of normal levels. Germany yesterday or-dered beef to carry official certificates proving it did not come from the UK or

Delhaize, one of the two biggest supermarket chains in Belgium, reported sales of beef down between 10 and 15 per cent since this time last week. Spanish beef consumption has fallen by about 25 per cent and the country's beet producers have countered with advertisements on tele-vision and in print promoting

It begins over one hundred million years ago when naturally carbonated water first hubbled through a spring at Vergèze, southern France.

000 This remarkable

phenomenon lay mundiced mud 21814. when Hannibal (of elephants fame) disrovered it. When the proved quite partial



decreed that it should be bottled "for the goodness of

For centuries, the pleasures of this unique water were passed on from Frenchman

But it took an Englishman to put it on the map.

In 1903 St. John Harmsworth found himself convalescing at Vergèze. Mindful of the water's healthgiving properties, his ductor prescribed it.

The effect was more dramatic than the doctor bargained for. Harmsworth immediately hought the spring and started bottling its contents



the new product after the man who had introduced it to him; Dr. Perrier. In a further flash of inspiration, he municibed the bottles on the shape of the Indian clubs he had been exercising with during his convalescence. Et voila-Perrier water.

Tealny, reshing much has changed. Perrier still gusles from that same spring,

Those same natural gases still infuse it with the same efferrescence

It is still untouched by additives, chemicals

And of course, it still sports its famous green glass bottle (Glass, because mere

plastic contra preserve Perrier's distinctive sparkle for long periods.)

In short, it is still the.

Or should that be eauriginal?

Restier

Labour claims 1989 **BSE** export warning

HE Government was accused as long ago as 1989 of "seifishly and irresponsibly" permitting the export of meat and bone meal infected with scrapie and BSE without properly alerting Britain's trading partners to the dangers, it emerged last

The revelation came as beef prices across Continental markets fell and Labour issued an eight-point plan for tighter controls to help the beef industry. With Britain's EU partners

eager to blame inadequate regulation of the food chain for the crisis, the Opposition's former agriculture spokes-man, Ron Davies, revealed that he had highlighted the export problem as the post-1986 BSE controversy finally prompted official action in

that time reappear in the eight proposals unveiled yesen, Gayin Strang and ing of cattle at slaughter houses — a move rejected by the Thatcher government.

Other recommendations include better enforcement of tougher abbatoir rules, an in-dependent Food Standards Agency and the creation of a quality assurance scheme "so that consumers know where their beef is coming from." At Prime Minister's ques

tion time yesterday Tony Blair endorsed the package which has won the support of McDonalds, the fast food chain, as "a welcome contri-bution to this debate" in-tended to help restore consumer confidence John Major called it a mix-

ture of "motherhood", action taken and On May 17, 1989, Mr Davies — now shadow Welsh secretary - demanded a more

sweeping "coherent and com-prehensive policy" — instead of ministerial complacency. He told MPs: "Infected mest is now being exported in its raw state to other countries. The Government's failure to terday by the Opposition's take any action to prevent the agriculture and health disease spreading is so grossly irresponsi scarcely credible."

philly, was told by the then junior agriculture minister, Donald Thompson, an exbutcher and farmer, that other countries which bought British meat and bonemeal for animal feed were "well aware of the position here. they discuss it with us."

Ministers had banned certain bovine offal in baby food,

"as a measure of extreme caution."

But they assumed the dis ase was under control. Mr Davies argued that the "enormous reservoir" of po-tential infection included the annual export of 3,000 tons of scrapic-infected sheep meal. He said the EU's Council of Ministers should discuss the

"Such complacency . . . is s blinkered and selfish as to constitute a scandal — a scandal to which I hope our trading partners will wake up be extent that it has hit us. "If they avoid that fate, it will not be due to any consideration of their interests by

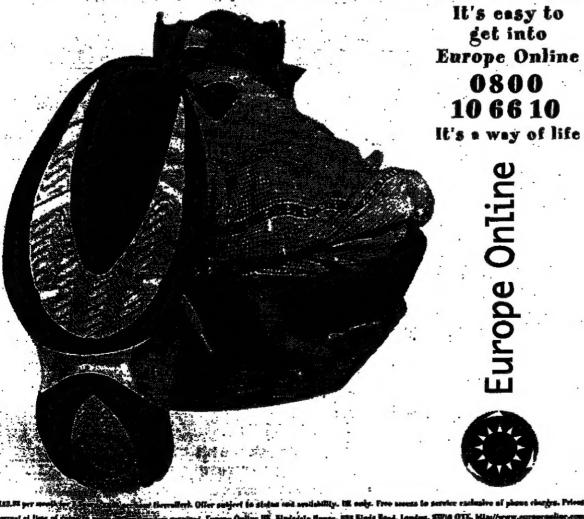
the British government." People at home were ex-posed to infection, while the tion was allowed "to imperil



West London butcher Greg Sandrey puts organically produced beef on display yesterday, but despite the more natural

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Time to go Dutch at McDonald's

Gary Younge and Stuart Miller join

dedicated burger eaters in Woolwich

OR Graeme Simpson,

aged 30, the wait at McDonald's in Woolwich, south London, was almost too much. "I was here at five past 11 this morning for when they got their de-

"The scare didn't really bother me. I would have eaten British beef anyway." he said, wolfing down a Big Mac while his three-year-old son, Steven, tucked into a happy meal hamburger. Yesterday, cheeseburg-

ers, quarter pounders and other beef goodies were back on the menu as Mc-Donald's introduced Dutch meat following its ban on British burgers last

Saturday.
Throughout the restaurant posters and stickers attempted to reassure ner-vous customers: "McDonald's uses only 100 per cent non-British beef."

Given the company's pride in the fact that Mc-Donald's products taste exactly the same whether they are sold in Rotterdam or Rochdale, the message was clearly aimed at cus-tomers' angst rather than their palates. What it had not bargained for was their

"The Europeans are try-ing to show us who's boss. I think it's all a big con, and we're just bowing to it. Mc-Donald's shouldn't have withdrawn the beef because there's nothing wrong with it. We came in the other day but they weren't serving any ham-burgers so we waited until

today," said Carole Ford.
For the past few days
business had been slower
in the Woolwich branch, where McDonald's set up its first restaurant in Britain in 1974. But unlike Carole Ford, some customers bad decided they would rather vary their diet than go without a McDonald's alogether. "We still had a lot of

people coming in through-out the scare who were eating Vegetable Deluxe or Chickenburgers. But it's back to normal today," said Jean Neale, manageress of the Woolwich restaurant. But, as scientists have warned, giving up beef can

bring its own troubles.

Stephanie O'Sullivan was

desperately trying to convince her two young chil-dren of the merits of "We're having a real struggle getting the kids to eat these Chicken McNuggets. They want their usual hamburgers but I've got to think about their health,"

she said. Among the health-conscious and the patriots were a handful of custom-ers who thought that Mc-Donald's was right to go Dutch.

"I'm glad. I wouldn't have bought anything made with British beef even if they had been selling. I don't think there's any dif ference in taste, but I least I know I'm not going to catch anything," said Emma Kirk, clutching a deluxe

Doctors fear **CJD** victim may have had new strain

Vivek Chaudhary

A29-year-old woman who died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) is be lieved to have had the new strain which is thought to be contracted from beef infected with BSE, doctors revealed yesterday.
The Kent woman, whose

identity has not been revealed died at the Kent and Canterbury hospital on Feb-

ruary 9.
Samples taken during a post-mortem are being examined by the CJD surveillance unit at the Edinburgh West ern General hosptial. Dr Chandra Kumar, consul

tant in communicable disease control for the East Kent health authority, said yesterday: "We suspect that this woman died from the same strain of the disease that you get from eating BSE-contaminated beef. Samples are being tested but we don't expect the results for a few weeks."
To date, 12 CJD victims are

believed to have acquired the new strain of the disease. Two The dead woman was treated by a senior consultant physician with an interest in neurology who said it was only the second case of CJD he had seen in 20 years.

Jon Billings, spokesman for the Kent and Canterbury hos-pital, said the victim's family had requested that no further information be given about

He added: "The family are obviously very distressed but at this stage we have no idea the disease

We are still serving beef in the hospital but all our beef comes from Argentina."

Revenge slyly infiltrates even our benign activities: it marks the jokes we tell and shadows the gifts we give. No wonder the shops are full of videos and novels with titles like Vendetta and Wild Justice.

Review page 10

Brit stereotypes belie pragmatism

Larry Elliott and Sarah Ryle look

for Britain's true feelings about the EU in Leicester at

the heart of England

and uncover only contradictions and limp agnosticism, in the last of the series

Gazza and England made

JRIN knows a lot | in crowd disturbances before about British atti- the game, 39 fans died.

tudes to Europe. As such, the venue for Maybe too much, today's European Union The city was where inter-governmental confer-nd England made ence would probably endorse their tearful exit from the one of the two stereotyped 1990 World Cup. Five years views of the average Brit's atearlier, its premier football team. Juventus, travelled to Brussels to play Liverpool in Brussels European Cup final. | through the streets of Amsterdam or Dusseldorf. But when | on display in Leicester, a | popular in the Euro-corridors | EU debate, he said his views he grows up, the stereotype

Out go the lager and the Tshirt, in come the cardigan, the pink gin and the Victor Meldrew-style fulmination against straight bananas, bureaucrats and the Bundesbank.

If ever there was a week to test these images it has been this one. After all, the pro-European view of the mad cow fiasco is that, far from being a threat to the roast beef of Olde England, Brus-sels has stepped in to safeguard consumers' interests. Opinion polls certainly in-

dicate that Britain has a far more equivocal -- perhaps pragmatic - approach to Europe than the stereoypes suggest, even though support tends to be stronger among those who visit the Dordogne than those on a Benidorm package holiday.

of power, though, as it has town twinned with Strasbourg, home of the European been selected as a model for a Parliament, since 1960. commission survey into what Leicester is not at the heart European citizens want from of EU affairs in the way its their surroundings. It has also been chosen to test a road twin is, but it is the only British city to have won a Council pricing scheme using EU funds. This ties in neatly with of Europe Plaque of Honour

the city's commitment to all

But a few minutes away from the council's high-rise

buildings at the covered mar-

ket — supposedly Europe's biggest — the perceptions are

ter's longest-established tripe

very different.

forge European links. The city council is enthusithings green. It was Britain's first Environment City in 1990 and now boasts Europe's largest urban environmental astic about the union, although council officers restrict their joy to comments about the EU's money and leave the political statements to their elected masters. "We are happy to have any-

in recognition of its efforts to

Europe," says Frazer Robson, the council's head of policy and development. His only expressed Euro-regret is that Leicester is un-able to gain access to the social fund to help cut its high

thing we can get from

on the Union pre-date the beef

"People want to put thing right on this side of the water first. We get old people who can afford a couple of rashers of bacon and four sausages

'Why not be a part of Europe? I came from Uganda but I'm British now'

time. People cannot understand why this money gets spent in Europe. It upsets

"People here want Britain out of Europe," said Philip Sherwin, who has run Leices-

city's student population (about 10 per cent of the total during term-time) love to buy.

He said: "I'm not really for Europe. We don't see any of the money here. All the Europe money the council gets is ploughed into the areas where they get the

votes."

He was talking about the areas with high unemployment, such as the Braunstone estate. But Nicola Ward, public relations executive for Leicester Promotions, warned that there was also underly-ing dissatisfaction in the city with the large Asian and black community. At 23.7 per cent of the population, Leices-ter's Asian community is the biggest of any city in Britain.

Asians have, according to stall for 23 years. Although his mind was more focused on the beef crisis and the impact on his business than on the his wife selling the sorts of timely death. Vibha Bhatt

jackets and jeans that the runs a stall in the covered market when she is not look ing after her elderly mother. one of the 13,500 Ugandan Asians who came to Leicester to escape Idl Amin in 1972 She was more concerned with the lack of johs in Leicester

than Britain's role in Europe.
"Why not be a part of
Europe" I came from Uganda when I was 11, but I'm British

now. It doesn't matter In Leicester, at least, have is too strong a word for Europe Some for, some against, and, in true British fashion, plenty

of don't knows. Take market under Rod Pratt, who cannot remember whether he voted for or against the Common Market in 1975. "People don't like it now, but I suppose I might have voted for it then and I'm not sure what I'd do now.

Sudan to face

sanctions if it

SUDAN, isolated because of alleged support for terror-

ism, is about to face United Nations sanctions for refus-

ing to hand over men impli-

sination of the Egyptian

rity Council are negotiating a resolution, expected next

week, which diplomats say is

likely to involve the with-

drawal of foreign ambassa

Economic measures against

the country. Africa's largest and one of the world's poor-

partly because Egypt would suffer from sanctions applied

Gunmen, believed to be members of the fundamental-

tacked President Muharak's motorcade last June in the

Ethiopian capital, Addis

Ababa, where he was attend-

harbouring and helping the

would-be assassins and later

produced evidence -- corrob-

orated by Western intelli-

gence agencies — proving Khartoum's complicity. But

the material has not been

available to the Security Council," one diplomat said. Sudan denies harbouring

terrorists and has said it has

On January 31, UN resolu-

dors from Khartoum.

Members of the UN Secu-

president, Hosni Mubarak.

ed in the attempted assas

fails to give up suspects

lan Black Diplomatic Editor

ANC takes on finance portfolio in reshuffle

HE African National Congress took a big step towards assuming control of the economy yests when a party member was ap-pointed finance minister by President Nelson Mandela.

The reshuffle was precipitated by the retirement of the non-political minister of finance, Chris Liebenberg, after only 18 months in office. He was replaced by the minister of trade and industry, Trevor Manuel, aged 40, a for-mer political activist who was classified "Coloured" under

His appointment is a demonstration of Mr Mandela's confidence in the ANC's ability to deal with the business

Mr Liebenberg and his predecessor Derek Keyes — both bankers — were appointed to reassure financial circles. particularly foreign investors, that the ANC was committed to economic rectitude. The South African Cham-ber of Business (Sacob) expressed nervousness about

the timing of Mr Liebenberg's "The decision comes at an unfortunate time in South Africa's history, when the country is still struggling to develop and build a record of Rudi Heine, sald. He added that the fact that post-apart-heid South Africa had gone through two ministers of finance since the all-race elections of 1994 would raise market concern about the nment's commitment to

Announcing the reshuffle in parliament in Cape Town yesterday. Mr Mandela said the original understanding with Mr Liebenberg was that his was be a relatively short appointment, "and that when he indicated that the momen had come for him to relin-quish his job, we would not

dence" in the government.
The National Party of F. W. de Klerk protested that the appointment of Mr Manuel preached an understanding with the ANC that the finance portfolio would be filled by a

neutral. Mr Manuel has established a reputation for toughness in his dealings with the overconcentrated corporate sector and his attempts to dismantle

Alec Irwin, the former deputy finance minister named yesterday as Mr Manuel's successor at trade and industry, is likely follow his

example.
A former spokesperson for fiscal discipline, financial station of the first and sound management who has established a formious mercial capital — carried only wooden sticks and

dog - has become deputy minister of finance.

tual in the cabinet. Dr Pallo Jordan, was dismissed, his posts and telecommunications portfolio going to Jay Naidoo, the minister with responsibility for the country's ponsibility for the country's reconstruction and development programme. The RDP portfolio, which has been criticised as superfluous, has been abolished

More surprising than any of the ministerial changes has been Mr Mandela's failure to use his first cabinet reshuffle to get rid of other ministers, such as Alfred Nzo at foreign affairs, whose performance in office has been widely regarded as abysmal.

Meanwhile the ANC

chalked up something of a tri-umph yesterday when In-katha backed off after threatening to confront police over the ban on carrying "tradi-tional" weapons during political demonstrations.

Inkatha leaders said they would defy the ban in countrywide protest marches to mark the anniversary of the slaughter of eight of their members outside ANC head-quarters in Johannesburg in 1994. But most of the more than 5,000 demonstrators who turned out in Johannesburg — one of the biggest Inkatha gatherings seen in the com-mercial capital — carried



tion 1044 gave Sudan 60 days to extradite the three and stop support for "terrorism". The period expires on Monday.

Defiant warrior . . . Though most demonstrating Zulus left their spears at home yesterday, a few challenged the goverment ban on dangerous weapons as they marched through Johannesburg

economy," its president, dable reputation in parlia- shields Israelis round up students

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

ALESTINIAN youths stoned Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organi-

The students and other Palestinians were held in a series of pre-dawn raids at and around Bir Zeit university, outside Ramallah. Israeli paratroopers burst

into university dormitories and private apartments in Bir lages. The raids involved large numbers of troops, paramilitary police, and members of the Shin Bet secret service.

In all, 376 Palestinians were picked up. Many were taken nitially to a school play-ground, while the Bir Zeit area was placed under curfew and all traffic stopped.

The biggest search and arest operation since Israel rest, the Gazans will be sent to the territories, and blockaded several West Bank blockaded sev picked up. Many were taken initially to a school play-ground, while the Bir Zeit area was placed under curfew

The biggest search and are a few will remain under are that a Jewish extremist might rest operation since Israel rest, the Gazans will be sent try to kill Rabin.

rule peace accord in 1993 drew angry reactions from Palestinian leaders and

"This is a display of Israeli tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces near the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday after hundreds of students were arrested at the territory's most prestigious the joint committees set up to oversee the West Bank powersharing arrangement.

Major-General Gabi Offr. commander of the West Bank occupation forces, said 57 places were raided. The aim was to round up members and supporters of the Islamist movement Hamas, and to find students from the Gaza Strip,

Israel sealed its borders with both territories, and

who are currently banned from the West Bank.

will continue operating."
But most Palestinians be

closure policy is to punish the 2 million residents of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and to force Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority to set its forces against the Is-lamist groups.

The Israeli prime minister,

Shimon Peres, wants to show the electorate before the May 29 election that he will take tough measures against the Islamists. Mr Peres, who had a huge lead in the polls until the bombings, is now neck and neck with his rightwing rival, Binyamin Netanyahu. Israel's security services were censured yesterday by the official inquiry into the assassination of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. The panel headed by a lian capital Bamako. former supreme court president, Meir Shamgar, said the Shin Bet leadership had failed to take seriously warnings

News in brief

France expels west African asylum seekers FRANCE yesterday ex- | dozens of Africans rounded in | the release of 38 of the Afri-

African asylum seekers rounded up after occupying a Paris church and gymnasium in protest against the coun-

The expulsion was attacked by human rights groups, who accused the government of ig-noring the human suffering caused by the law.

The Malians are among

pelled more than 50 West the past week after they occu-ican asylum seekers pied first a Paris church and inded up after occupying a then a gymnasium in a protest aimed at winning permanent residence.

The Africans won support from civil rights campaigners and the opposition Socialists, who oppose government plans to tighten immigration laws, because, they say, they are already too tough. The Gaullist-led govern-

ment claimed that the occupations were publicity stunts.
A court initially ordered

Tappers told

ABOUT 100,000 French tele-phone lines are illegally tapped each year and state agencies may be behind much of the eavesdropping, an offi-cial panel said yesterday.

Curbs imposed on wire-tapping by official bodies may

have tempted them to farm their illegal bugging out to private firms, the indepen-dent National Commission

for the Control of Security In-

The commission, created in

1991 after a series of scandals,

said bugging still went far be-

yond the 15,000 taps legally

"New measures are essential to curb illegal wire-

taps, which are an increasing

danger for the private lives of

citizens, the activities of nu-

merous professions and even the proper functioning of a

state of law," the report

authorised each year.

terceptions said.

cans because their eviction from the church was illegal. But an appeals court later overturned the ruling and ordered them re-arrested. The interior minister, Jean-Louis Debré, said he took "total responsibility" for the police actions and insisted that the

arrests had been completely legal.
France has at least four million legal foreign residents and up to a million more are believed to be in the country

illegally. — Reuter. Russia to show to get off line

more looted art Russia showed off a Ridrawing by Vincent van Gogh yesterday when the Hermitage museum an-

nounced a new exhibition of art seized from Nazi Van Gogh's Boats on the Beach at Saintes-Maries and works by the 19th cen-

tury artists Paul Signac and Honore Daumier were brought out of obscurity to publicise the exhibition, which opens in December.

The van Gogh, Signac's
Boats in a Harbour and
Daumier's Gare Saint-La-

war. - Reuter.

zare will be among 89 draw-ings, including works by Francisco Goya and Paul Cézanne, to make up the show. Two exhibitions last year were the first to display Russia's treasures looted from Germany at the end of the second world

overpowered

of Germany's most notorious criminals yesterday, freeing seven relatives he had threat-ened to kill during a 24-hour ordeal in the village of Leien-kaul, near Koblenz.

Norbert Hagner, aged 45, spent 11 years in jail for spec-tacular bank robberies and kidnappings in the 1970s and 1980s. Local newspapers said he returned to take revenge on his ex-wife, saying she had informed on him. — Reuter.

Algerian manhunt Algerian security forces yes-terday sealed off the Islamist stronghold of Medea where seven French Trappist monks were kidnapped by suspected Muslim militants. There has been no trace of the monks since they were seized on Wednesday. — Reuter.

Jaruzelski in dock Court proceedings began yes-terday against Poland's former military strongman, Woj-

ciech Jaruzelski, for the killing of 44 demonstrators by security forces during food protests in 1970. - Reuter. **Chechens hit**

Russian forces attacked Chechen separatists on three fronts yesterday, trying to seize control of territory in the breakaway region before President Boris Yeltsin unveils a peace plan on Sun-

day. - Reuter. Poli law

Bangladesh's president, Abdur Rahman Biswas, yester-day signed a law providing for all future national elec-

Hostage taker | tions to be held under a neuwrites Arshad Mahmud in Dhaka. It paves the way for the embattled prime minister, Khaleda Zia, to step down.

Warm beer penalty Gunmen shot dead a South African bartender because he served them warm beer, police said yesterday. A police spokesman said the two men's shots in a shebeen, an unlicensed bar, in central Johannesburg also injured another

Kingmaker dies

Shin Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister and one of Japan's most powerful politicians died yesterday, aged 32. Kanemaru, who helped put four prime ministers in office, was regarded as the consummate backroom poiitician and kingmaker. — AP. Obituary, page 17

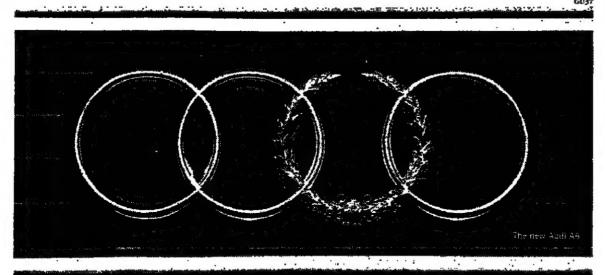
Ring cycle

An engagement ring dropped into the sea off Sweden almost two years ago was returned to its owner after it was found in a mussel in a catch of shell-fish. The fisherman traced the owner because his flancée's name was engraved on the ring. - Reuter.

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W)

Dragons and demons haunt US-China links



Other worlds

John Gittings

THE dark cloud of Chinese warplanes and mis-siles has lifted from the Taiwan Strait, but Beijing's lightning now flashes in a different direction. The target is no longer the "separatist" Taiwanese president, Lee Teng-hui. It is the "super-power" United States which, says Beiling, is plotting to plungs the Chinese people into a further "abyss of

Sudantos

Sanctions.

fails to gis

up suspen

· Book more les suffering". In Washington, too, the mood has changed. China seems a far cry from the mouth-watering market hailed in the early 1990s.

its current issue. A surging while strategists are more China, it proclaims over a pic | likely to reckon on conflict. about to become one of the will the reborn China be a

reached in the 1970s and 1980s — though based on a now defunct anti-Soviet strategic rationale — was apparently cemented by mutual economic interest and a shared view of east Asia's leading

role in the 21st century.
But are we seeing the birth of an inescapable power conflict between the world's only superpower and the world's fastest rising half-super power. Or is this just another spat in a long love-hate relationship?

The US always denied The US always denied it was an imperialist power like the rest. Did it not seek an "open door" for trade with China 100 years ago, opposing the territorial grabs of the European imperialists?

In 1945, Mao tried to tempt US diplomats with special access to the Chinese market.

US diplomats with special access to the Chinese market. By the 1970s, the capitalist US was seen as less of a threat than the Soviet Union

There are contradictory sig-nals from both Washington outh-watering market and Beijing. Diplomats tend to believe they can influence Newsweek sets the tone in the other side's policies.

diplomatic signal to the US suggesting there would be no Yesterday the US assistant invasion of Taiwan appears to Lord, a former ambassedor to China, spoke of building a have enraged the generals. They demanded and obtained more constructive relation-ship. He said the administraa public denial from the Chinese foreign ministry tion would fight to renew Chispokesman. na's Most Favoured Nation

trade status, against congres sional opposition.

conflict or a spat in

But Mr Lord and colleagues

weapons and Iran make pol-son gas; human rights viola-tions; and "intellectual

In China the argument is

a long love-hate

relationship?

With political change ruled out until Mr Deng dies, Chi-nese bureaucrats find it safer to take a hard line. Disillu-sionment with market economics also strengthens the Communist Party's old guard. is this a new power

But it is not only party con-servatives who believe China has yet to take its rightful place in the world. Beiling is bound to become more asser this need not mean territorial

are the barget of flares conservative criticism of US "craven diplomacy". The critics' check-list includes the sus-The US also defines its global future with explicit reference to Asia. The regional picture is complicated by pected (though not proven) sale of Chinese components to help Pakistan make nuclear Japan and Russia, with Korea

 perhaps even Indonesia —
coming up from behind.

None of this will be easy to handle. But if the images of Chinese dragons — or US de-mons — are foolishly revived, it could become impossible.



Slipping veil... America's First Lady Hillary Rodbam Clinton and daughter Chelsea enter the Blue Mosque in Istanbul erday at the end of a three-day goodwill visit to Turkey. Mrs Clinton is to fly on to Greece

Villagers contact Briton's captors

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Siem Reap, Cambodia

HREE Cambodian villagers penetrated the forest hideout of the armed gang holding the British mine clearer Christopher Howes and his interpreter yesterday and hope to start talks today to try to secure their release.

the camp on a mountain known as One Hundred Stoves Hill, about 25 miles north of the provincial capital Siem Reap in an area infiltrated by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, the deputy pro-vincial governor, Hem Bun Heng, reported.

The villagers hoped to return today with details of what ransom or other con-80 per cent optimistic they

They had no contact with the prisoners but told Mr Heng that Mr Howes, aged 36, a former Royal Engineers supper working in western Cambodia for the worker. Mines Advisory Group (MAG), a British charity, was in good health and had not been mistreated.

The gunmen, armed with automatic weapons and rocket launchers, initially asked for the equivalent of £2,600 for setting free the team of Cambodian mine

since releasing them the same day, they have made no ransom demands.

Cambodian officials and Western aid workers are still searching for clues to the identity of the gang, reportedly 33-strong. Some were dressed in civilian clothes, some in military uniforms and some in Khmer Rouge uniforms,

the villagers reported.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas are known to have been moving through the district where Mr Howes was seized. But the north-west-ern province siege is the border with Thatfand and contested by rival factions for 20 years, also suffers from chronic banditry. Khmer Rouge defectors and renegade soldiers roam the

ditions the kidnappers Earlier reports suggested sought, he said. "I am the gummen were Pol Pot's men, but aid workers say the small ransom demand

> The gunmen snatched Mr Howes, his team and two vehicles from a mine clear-ance site a few miles north of the ancient temples of Angkor Wat. But they later abandoned the vehicles.
>
> MAG and another British

22,600 for setting free the de-mining agency, the Halo team of Cambodian mine clearers seized with Mr Howes on Tuesday. But protest at the kidnapping.

news. deliverec door

Word

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> The Guardian theObserver

Premier Newspapers

Beijing takes bubbles out of Hong Kong's champagne do

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

AMID acrimonious public battles over the fate of democracy and the civil service in Hong Kong after 1997, Brit-ain and China clashed behind closed doors yesterday on another prickly issue — throwing a party on handover

A third round of talks on the champagne ceremony with which Britain would like to quit its last important colony ended in Hong Kong with no hint of an agreement.

Determined to save Com-munist Party leaders from having to shake hands with Governor Chris Patten - vilifled as a "whore" and a
"tango dancer" — China
wants to keep the big celebration until after the British
have left. The alling Deng Xiaoping, aged 91, has said he hopes to live long enough to visit Hong Kong in 1997.

Hugh Davies, senior British representative on the Joint Liaison Group. "I hope very much that with goodwill on both sides we will be able to deliver a caresnony on June 30 1997 that satisfies the aspirations of Hong Kong and the international commu

China's hostility towards Mr Patten shows no sign of abating, however. After a brief pause during John Major's visit earlier this month, the polemics have resumed with gusto. The trigger was China's decision last weekend to begin the demolition of the legislature elected under Mr Patten's reforms.

Patten's reforms.
In its place will be a body appointed by Betjing. Chinese officials have warned senior civil servants in Hong Kong that they must pledge allegiance to the unelected legislature — expected to be in place as a shadow body before the end of the year — or lose their jobs.

Mr. Patten, described the

wisit Hong Kong in 1997.

"All I can say is that this is not an easy discussion and we are having difficulties," said the protests as a "big joke".



For the ordinary Japanese people, Kanemaru came to epitomise the grubby world of money politics, especially when investigators in 1993 discovered gold bars under his bed.

Obituary page 10

The Guardian

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Give and take in the EU

Compromise is not a bad word: it's the answer

European Union Inter-governmental conference — the so-called Maastricht 2 which formally opens in Turin this morning - was seen as one of the epochal events in the remaking of modern Europe. Even in Britain, where grand European designs are widely treated with an often healthy scepticism, it is not long since the IGC was generally perceived as a political climax which would decisively shape the general election contest. Now that the year of deliberations is actually beginning, the importance of the IGC has diminished. Its range and resonance have narrowed. Other European dehates not covered in the IGC - monetary union, agriculture reform and EU enlargement — have necessarily set it in a broader context of institutional evolution. The beef crisis has come as an explosive reminder that unforeseen events will shape the new Europe at least as powerfully as honed bureaucratic plans. To the Conservative Party. gathering in conference this weekend in Harrogate, the IGC must seem a lower order of problem right now.

Nevertheless, the IGC is still hugely important and no amount of contextua-lising should be allowed to deflect from what is at stake. It must take decisions about a range of European issues common foreign and security policy, common justice and home affairs policy, EU institutional reform and accountability - which are not only important in themselves, but which will inevitably impact upon domestic and international politics for years to come. The IGC will have to decide about big questions, like the structure of western European defence in the face of military challenges to Europe in general and member states individually. But it will also take decisions about smaller matters - like the adoption of a uniform proportional representation sys-

THERE was a time when the 1996 | tem for European Parliament elections, whose outcome will have powerful momentum for the British domestic debate about electoral reform generally.

The principal problem for this IGC, and perhaps for all European Union negotations always, is to find a work-able and popular EU-wide compromise between necessary European cooperation and necessary national decisionmaking. The weakness of Maastricht was that the EU over-reached itself and lost popular legitimacy in the net contributor states (which are generally. like Britain, the richest, most powerful and most heavily populated). This IGC must redress that balance, which is one reason why the size of the Commission must be restricted and the rights of the large nations protected in other ways. Even so, Europe has to be a compromise. Compromise has become a dirty word in some parts of the debate. It is seen by integrationists as a self-out to national rivalry and by nationalists as a capitulation to creeping federalism. But compromise should always be at the heart of the process. The European Union is itself a gigantic deal. Countries give to it in order to take from it. They win some and lose some on individual issues. In that sense the union is always in conflict with member states and they with it, and it is right to recognise this fact more openly. which is one of the strengths of the British debate. But it is equally clear that the powers of the strengthened union must be subject to legal scrutiny. parliamentary accountability and popular consent, something which our government has persistently failed both to acknowledge and foster. The European Union will always be a compromise and rightly so. But any approach which pretends that European cooperation is optional is as dishonest as one which claims the same about national

A child's rights are paramount

Yesterday's bill is not as bad as expected; intentionally so

in adoption procedures under which benefits too; parents who are more single mothers-to-be would be encour- established in their jobs and more expeaged to hand over their babies for rienced. The guidance rightly notes the adoption. Indeed the health minister | benefits of placing a child with a family the aim of the new adoption bill would | but this is not always possible. Only the be "to promote adoption as an accept- ideologically blind would insist on chilable and valid alternative to abortion or the burden of bringing up an unwanted child." Hence the anger. A government which rejects state interference on economic issues was apparently intent on interfering in social affairs, perhaps even turning the clock back to a time when unmarried mothers handed over their children to adoption agencies to hush up family shame and stigma. It was not difficult to unearth a motive: unmarried mothers cost the state £9 billion in social security. What better wheeze than to transfer this cost to childless middle-income couples desperate to adopt and more than ready to bear the full cost of children.

Yesterday, the draft bill simplifying current procedures was released. It is not nearly as neanderthal as speculation suggested. Indeed, the suspicion remains that ministers may have intentionally given their proposals a prepublication political spin to appease their right wing. True it comes with guidance which suggests there should be no iron rules on age, race, or intercountry adoptions. But all of this makes | them stability, love and a chance to sense. Barring people over 38 from develop their full potential.

OUR correspondence columns have adopting — as some agencies have done been filled with angry letters. They — is absurd. Family life starts much were provoked by a report of a new tilt later for many couples today. It brings told our political correspondent that of the same race, religion and culture dren being kept in "care" rather than being adopted by a family of mixed or different ethnic origin. Such iron rules needed to be abolished. Buried within the guidelines, there is even recognition that some children's needs may be best met by a single adoptive parent when, for example, the person has been a successful longterm foster carer or

has special skills. Adoption is in need of an overhaul. Adopted children still face too many difficulties as adults in discovering their family background as our readers have starkly set out in this month's letter columns. Inter-country adoptions need to be handled with care but are not barred by either the UN or European conventions on children. Childless couples deserve sympathy but the principle established by the 1975 Children Act -

the child's interests remain paramount - needs reasserting. Children are not chattels. With more support, some poor families would not need to lose their children. But there are other children, lost in care, where adoption would give

A fusion of rights and ecology

Brazil's Indians must have protection for their homelands.

THE BESIEGED Indians of Brazil have government. The supreme court to rely for justice on the Ministry of rejected his case: he would win now. Justice. That may be a mistake since its Minister has just pushed through a ans, scattered into some 180 different decree which will make it much harder groups with almost as many languages. to defend their lands from rapacious are already hanging on desperately. loggers, ranchers and mining The constitutional argument is

Minister Nelson Jobim arrives today in London eager to convince aid agency and NGO critics that presidential decree No. 1775 will protect the indigenous zones occupying 11 per cent of Brazil. The decree allows any interested party to challenge the boundaries of several hundred zones not yet formally registered. Mr Jobim says that if these were registered without this power being available, then vested in- Earth Summit to fund a new proterests could claim that their constitu- gramme for Indian land protection. Oxtional right had been violated. By coin- fam and other agencies are urging them cidence Mr Johim, before becoming to accept that this new decree makes minister, prepared a legal brief using nonsense of the Rio commitment - and this same argument on behalf of a state | to tell the minister.

specious: their right to occupy the traditional lands takes precedence in the constitution over all other rights. What is needed is speedy registration and proper protection against illegal encroachment. The Indians preserve not only their own heritage but a vital ecosystem which is a precious but diminishing global resource. The EU and World Bank - and donor governments including Britain - agreed at the Rio

fight.
Nigel Dacre.
Editor, ITN News on ITV.
Editor, Itn Road, A quarter of a million Brazilian Indi-

> F the issue is "restoring public confidence" in beef rather than the assurance of public health, why does the Government not adopt the method it found so useful in the case of Windscale? Rename beef. D J Elliott.

following a history of abuse and rejection. Such children make considerable demands on their new families and the assessment of adoptive parents is a skilled and com-plex task. If this is experienced by some as discriminatory we are sorry, but we must use our knowledge of "what works" to do our best to protect these vulnerable children from further disruption. Felicity Collier. Director, British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, 200 Union Street, London SE1 0LX.

NE of the major issues facing prospective adoptive parents is the current employment laws. There are none supporting adoption. Parents who adopt have no rights to maternity or paternity leave, paid or otherwise. And certainly no rights to return to work after a leave of absence. Therefore the only prospective parents seeking adoption are those who can af-ford it. This seriously limits the potential for successful adoptions. May I suggest that the Government's plans to review current policies in-clude the reassessment of this blatant discrimination. Marianne Grace. 75 Bower Lane.

1949. I also experienced an "unwanted" pregnancy in the 1970s and gave the baby for adoption. I did not have to suspend my own self-interest durpenniny own sen-interest un-ing pregnancy; I continued my lifestyle in much the same way as before. I did not con-sider myself to be a mere "walking womb" either.

At one ante-natal visit I heard the baby's heartbeat mediate sense of someone mysterious and hidden to me. pursuing a separate life inside my body. He had, and still has, THE health minister's pro-posals reinforce the myth erations scarcely known to 92 Newcombe Road

manent families for children functional. The real cause of myself and my haby. I'm who are unable to return to abortions is poverty. To sug-their birth families, perhaps gest that we can reduce tinue with our lives with minimal inconvenience to each other - with adoptive familles who loved and wanted us. Debby Wakeham. Cobden Street,

GIMME THE MONEY ORI OPEN

THE BURGER!

YOUR correspondent Tony May (Letters, March 25) highlights the frustration FIND Ann Furedi's cavalier dismissal of adoption as an alternative to abortion (Letters, March 27) at best ques-tionable and at worst offen-sive. The adoption choice is many people face in trying to gain access to papers detailing their earlier lives. This is shared by social workers and counsellors in post-adoption services. Unlike the Greater London Record Office, one body in this region allows our not "indicrous", it is a non-violent option which frees women from a lifetime of unwanted parenthood or the risk of post-abortion trauma and safeguards the right of the child to a natural lifespan. So-called "illegitimacy" used to carry a stigma; now it seems that people who have been clients not only to inspect but to keep original papers over 40 years old. It fulfils its own ar-chiving responsibilities by retaining photocopies. The adopted are to be seen as missed abortions. satisfaction experienced by these clients has to be seen to I was adopted as a baby in be understood: what words can describe the emotion ex-

perienced by a 60-year-old woman on being given a paper her own, unknown, mother signed so long ago? Those of us privileged to witness the benefits of such a positive policy can only im-plore retentive authorities to plore retentive authornies to develop a more humane ap-proach. Workers in this area trust the forthcoming Adop-tion Bill will require all re-cord holders to implement open-access policies. Pam Hodgkins. Service Co-ordinator:

vote much time to finding per- | that single parents are dys- [each other: my first mother, | Birmingham B21 SDD.

Beef on the menu in Turin

-@ Steve sell 1996~

TODAY is a vital day for Europe's reputation in Britain Ironically, Britain's beef crisis makes the opening of the long-awaited EU intergovernmental conference more important, not less. In-stead of the event being the feared public turn-off, it sud-denly affects the most basic ingredients of everyday life the food on our plates and the fortunes of our farmers.

fortunes of our farmers.

The choice for Jacques
Santer and the other 14
countries is whether to be
technical and bureaucratic (to
concentrate on qualified majority voting and foreign policy) or whether to be realistic
and practical, and recognise
that — for most Britons — the
Turin Summit is in effect simnly about cows and compensaply about cows and compensa-tion. However, this provides a golden opportunity to reach out to the British people. If the Commission and our

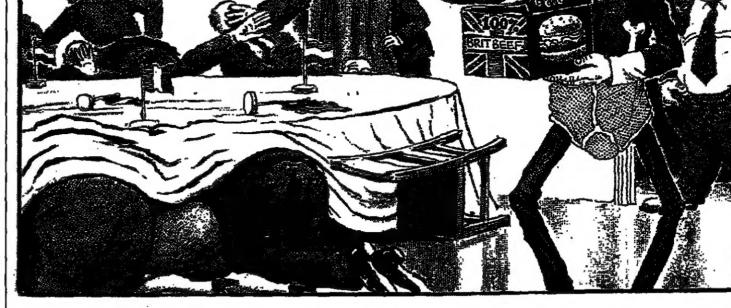
partners can make this concession to the fevered nature of public debate, they will have the power to do more for the EU's reputation in Britain than any number of fine words on institutional reform or enlargement.

If our partners want Britain and the British on board for the next two years of hard bargaining, they should take actions that clearly signal to the people — never mind the politicians — that they are wanted and valued in Europe. A firm statement on compen-sation, a new EU-resourced safety and a pledge by Mr Santer to visit British farmers within the month would prob-

ably do the trick. Meanwhile John Major should realise that taking a more understanding and co-operative line with his fellow heads of government — on beef and beyond — is likely to reap more dividends for Britain in the long run than petty recriminations. Given the EU's well-founded alarm, the Prime Minister's anger can only be synthetic - directed not at solving the actual problem but offered as a sacrifice to the family gods of national-ism on his back-benches.

Santer and Major should think carefully today before dismissing the beef scare as an irrelevance to the serious business of Turin. After all, making the EU relevant to its citizens is supposed to be a key aim at the IGC — and its citizens are for once watching. Giles Radice MP.

European Movement. 52 Horseferry Road, London SWIP 2AF.



abortion by offering increased access to adoption is nonsensi

cal. What should be offered is

a comprehensive system of benefits to single parents. Name and address supplied.

Letters to the Editor

INTERGOVERNMENTAL

CONFERENCE TORINO 1996

Between baby and minister

OCIAL workers practis-ing in the field of child care and adoption have been looking forward to the publication of the draft Adop-tion Bill. After a lengthy review following the 1989 Children Act, legislation to bring adoption law in line with other childcare provision is long overdue.

I am therefore puzzled that John Bowis has chosen to launch an attack on the "political correctness" of social work-ers who, it could be inferred, may discourage single mothers from considering adoption thereby reducing the numbers of babies who are adopted (Adoption law aims at single mothers, March 25). He says there will be a "crackdown" on any discrimination against adopters on the grounds of age, education and race.

This apparent new emphasis on adoption as a service for adults, rather than for children, is alarming. All of us working in the area of adop-tion understand only too well the painful choices many have to make — we must never return to the days when they felt compelled by social stigma and poverty to relinquish their new-born habies. The aftermath of such decisions is now well known to us; we see birth mothers who after many years still relive the pain of separation and we meet adult adoptees struggling with the conflict between a wish to be loyal to their adoptive parents their genealogical roots.

Adoption workers now de-

Points of order

THE decision of the "New"

Labour Party to ballot all

members on the election

manifesto is an interesting one (Blair plans policy ballot,

March 28). No doubt this "democratic" principle will continue to apply when

"New" Labour is in govern-ment and all party members

will be similarly balloted be fore manifesto commitments are ditched or modified.

Lord Stoddart of Swindon.

terrestrial viewers to see high-

200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8XZ.

one beat this record?

no de la composición En la composición de la composición de

House of Lords,

London SWIA GAA.

Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Beds LU6 1RB.

Truth vaccine

YOUR article (Nerve study boosts Gulf illness fight, March 27) incorrectly attributes to me the observation that chemical nerve agents "could have reacted with the polio vaccine to damage the immune system". This comment was misinterpreted my position is that this absence of antibodies to the polio vaccine is suggestive of an im-mune-system irregularity, rather than some direct action of the vaccine itself. This test for polio antibodies was conducted to determine if the veterans' immune sys-tems were functioning in the same manner as in the gen-eral public — they are not. James J Tuite III. Director, Gulf War Research Foundation, 3014 Dent Place, NW #4E, Washington, DC 20007.

A Country Diary

THE LAKE DISTRICT: Blown | dale for the wonderful cir-THE LAKE DISTRICT: Blown off Whiteside by a furious easterly gale that swept through the funnel of Gasgale Gill with the roar of a jet fighter we crept back down the side of the crags to seek more sheltered delights in the valley. Clutching at the rooks on the edge of the cliff in the very teeth of the sale it had very teeth of the gale, it had been difficult to keep our feet, let alone make progress, and our projected walk along the ridges would have to be left to another day. A pity, since the snow on Grasmoor on the other side of the gill looked especially inviting. Down in the leafy shade of Lanthwaite Wood the contrast with the fury on the heights could hardly have been more marked. Here was a gentle walk along a carpet of pine needles — not even a rustle in the towering trees but, once, a splash of colour as a red squirrel crept along a branch and, later, a couple of rabbits

song, waterfalls spashing down from the crags, a beautiful path so close to the water and even on this day - sheltered from the gale on the heights — the lake itself a mirror of all the colours around it. There was just one change from many previous rounds: the roof of the rock tunnel through which generations of walkers have passed was said to be unsafe and a new fellside path had been provided. Buttermere is always heart-stirringly beautiful; indeed, it is said the owner of the big house built the tunnel so that his contemplation of the perfect view from his windows would not hurrying across the track be disturbed by the sight of the lower classes passing waves now dashing as an angry wash on the beach, and drove towards the head of the



Heat of animal passions

T is quite mad for the Char-ity Commissioners to rule and be replaced by others that the RSPCA can campaign N what is hopefully the final postscript to the discussion on behalf of animal welfare Bruno fight, let's set the re-cord straight. ITN and the Animal charities exist be-cause many people are deter-mined to reverse the process by which our society has drifted into treating animals abominably. Reversing that process will of course incon-venience those who make BBC did not "finally accept (BSkyB's] formula", as David Elstein claims in his letter of last weekend. After months of insisting that it would only allow access to news pro-grammes 72 hours after the fight, it was BSkyB which acmoney out of current arrange-ments. So it will indeed intercepted arguments put forward by ITN and the BBC to allow fere with some human interests. Where, however, more serious dietary or medical inlights on the same day as the terests are involved, these charities take it that we have to work to improve conditions
— which is just what the

"Welfare" in fact would nat-urally include things like see-ing to it that, if calves are THE benefits of deregulation mean that this week I could not buy a rail ticket for my slaughtered they are slaugh-tered near home instead of daughter from Maidstone to Taunton via Leeds; have been being transported across asked to pay £150 for a water meter in order to sprinkle my Europe for 50 hours without food or rest. But that (we own lawn; have sat behind learn) is exactly one of the three nearly empty doublecampaigns which the Comdecker busses spewing foul black fumes in a trafficmissioners object to. Another is the RSPCA's attack on the choked town centre. Can any-British-financed use of chimpanzees for experimentation in Holland. The simplest ob-502 Loose Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9UF. ection to this practice is that it takes chimpanzees from the wild, thus promoting wasteful hunting which brings their fragile and fragmented popu-

lations even closer to extinction. It is obscure how the con-cept of welfare as a mere softening of existing practice could be introduced into this industry, or into hunting. The upshot of the Commis-

and be replaced by others which are willing to do what their supporters want. The nosurrounding news access to but must not object to the SkyB's coverage of the Bruno fight, let's set the record straight. ITN and the Animal charities exist becontemporary morality. It excontemporary morality. It ex-presses a quite unreal, arbitrary attempt to detach our species from the biosphere that it belongs to.
Mary Midgley.
1s Collingwood Terrace,
Newcastle-on-Tyne NE2 2JP.

THE Charity Commission-ers' ruling was overdue. The RSPCA has long waged a campaign against my indus-try, the circus. It opposes the use of trained animals in circuses and has invested much money in media campaigns and anti-circus literature in preference to making any con-structive attempt to promote better welfare for the animals.

This is despite overtures from

us to foster working relationships. David Hibling. College Place, Kemptown, Brighton, Sussex BN2.

THIS is only the most recent of a number of highly selective interpretations of charity law, brought about by the Commissioners giving in to pressure from wealthy lobbying organisations such as the Countryside Movement and the International Free-dom Foundation. Charities must remain free to challenge the causes of suffering, not simply pick up the pieces after the damage is done. David Norman. 24c Forburg Road sioners' ruling can only be | London N16 6HS.

Diary

Matthew Norman

N the Daily Mail comes thrilling news of Mandy Mandelson. The paper reports that, on Tuesday, the Hartlepool member was involved in a fracas at the Almeida Theatre in Islington. Gosh. On a trip to flog his splendid book to the faithful, Mandy was ambushed by Old Labour beasties protesting about immigration policy. Unpleasantness ensued. Mandy grabbed a banner before engaging in some reciprocal shoving. The Mail's pictures show him as a hero—and yet, I learn of frantic efforts to suppress them. Can this be true? According to photographer Paul Mattson, Mandy alde Benjamin Wegg-Prosser bombarded him with ever more hysterical phone calls, demanding he not sell them. Firmly in the Wodehoustan wing of New Labour ("I say wing of New Labour ("I say Jeeves, after lunch at the Drones I"II be toodling down to to Millbank Tower to work on Squeegee Straw's TV delivery"), Mr Wegg-Prosser saved news of a de-mand from Mandy himself until his final call at 1 lpm. That, at least, is Mr Mattson's story. However, givene the near-religious intensity of Mandy's belief in press freedom, I find it very hard to believe.

N enchanting dia-logue brightens the London Library's suggestions book. Could the library acquire "Jean Luc Hennig's magIsterial his-tory of the bottom, Rear View", writes a Mr Jeremy Paxman. A terse reply has now appeared from the li-brarian: "Already possess; see science/anatomy".

HERE are worrying signs that the Cypriot wine-waiter and occasional gossip-writer Taki-George may be developing irony. In his latest High Ball cocktail column in the Spectator, he first describes how he tried to goose Edward Heath while serving the old boy a Screwdriver at a Ma-dame Tussauds party, and then recalls that he used to work in America for a certain Steve Smith. A relative of the Kennedys, Mr Smith "was unbeknownst to me a very heavy cocaine user, writes the domestic. Unbeknownst . . . to a man who spent months inside for bringing cocaine into Her Brittanic Majesty's inno-cent realm? T-G would do well to remember the old journalistic saw (the one dearest to the Diary's heart) that teaches: "Irony does not work in newspapers.

VEN worse than lity. Piers French writes from Cardiff enclos ing a map of Oregon, and inting out that there, between Beaverton to the north and Clackamas to the south, lies the charming town of Wankers Corner. This follows the recent item about the low-calorie Ameriwhich its brewer expects to make money hand over fist.

NE of South America's most talented vil-lains is behind bars. One night last week, Edilber Guimaires broke into a factory in Belo Hortzonte, 280 stopped briefly to sniff the glue he was pinching, and in doing so dislodged two cans. They fell to the floor and spilled their contents. When the police turned up the next day, they found Mr Guinaires asleep and glued to

HREE months ago, in the most remarkable instance of commercial prescience since Decca and the Beatles, Cornish publican Ken Gibson decided on "The Mad Cow Steak House" as his new restaurant's name. Reporting that it is now too late to change, because the signs and menus have been finished, Mr Gibson is showing the Dunkirk spirit the Diary so admires. "I don't believe anyone has stated that prime cooked steak is dangerous," he says. Those wishing to reward his defiance will find the Mad Cow Steak House in Falmouth's Cutty Sark pub.

French have been stamping the initials VF for Viande Française on their beef. How comforting for consumers. How much more comforting, however, were VF not also the recognised abbreviation for "vache folle", the French for



The view over the last ridge

Commentary

Peter Preston

EACE does not just break out any longer. Peace these days ar-rives at the end of a process. The peace and the process, forever conjoined like prunes and custard. I have been in Jerusalem this week, knee-deep in the pro-cesses of Middle East recon-ciliation. But I kept thinking about Northern Ireland. The immediate echoes come thickly. Mounds of beaving history, a mountain of memory reeking far be-yond any rational sell-by date. Israeli politicians, like the politicians of Ulster, rarely talk simply about the future. They begin with the past and many of them

Beyond that, of course, lies all this must be embraced as the wonder of religion. Let's "part of the process".

Here the differences grow the street, trying to find a few more nourishing parallels.

Here the differences grow starker. After the Aldwych more nourishing parallels. Beyond that, of course, lies the wonder of religion. Let's

remain locked there.

of Hizbollah are uncannily the same as MI5's estimate of TRA strength? Did you know that Hamas — whence the bus bombers come — has a politi-cal wing and a semi-detached military wing it may or may not speak for? (Attention, Sheikh Gerry.) When you listen to Benny Begin, rising Li-kud star and son of his father, does the voice of lan Paisley Junior rasp somewhere just off-stage? And what about the guns? We Brits may or may not talk whilst the IRA continues armed and dangerous.
The moving finger of politics
traces another wiggly line. Israel has no such inhibitions. It pens up the Palestinians, the good, the bad and the ugly, and lets them sweat in the "entity" they call home. Internment seems nallid stuff by such standards. The thought that a million and more Palestinians can be responsible, let alone equally responsible, for two terrible bombs comes devoid of logic on the ground. But this is Is-rael, this is election time and

Did you know that the Israeli with their destruction and army intelligence estimates of the South Lebanon strength of Hizboliah are uncannily ceasefire was not, in fact, the end of due processing. It got the process timeservers off

> On this and almost every other count, you'd give the current Middle East show low current Middle East show low marks and even lower expectations. It is, by common consent, as vulnerable as the next suicide explosion in a market square. CNN, poised to cover the last rites, deploys teams non-stop whenever and wherever a bang is heard. If Peres, the 73-year-old who has never won an election in his own right, thought that peace would carry him through at would carry him through at last, he stands cruelly dis-abused. Israel's present president, like his predecessor, talks openly about taking things more slowly, of not rushing to square the Syrian equation. Both of them seem to think that years can pass whilst Assad, of his own volition, comes to terms — leav-ing the straggle of Palestinian self-governing enclaves strewn impotent across the West Bank like the Transkei

non-peace and the non-pro-cess to a Likud which affects to believe that the current freeze can be held sine die. It is a bleak prognosis. When Egypt's ambassador to Israel says eloquently (as he did at this week's International Press Institute conference) that the deal with Syria should be done now, that all the rattle about step by-step is a snare, he has urgent reality to his words, if not political reality. If peace is inevitable, all talk about process grows ever thinner and ever more rulmerable.

You would reckon, by contrast, that Ulster is easy. Two sober Western governments on the same wavelength; a long break from violence making its own case; the same beneficent President of the USA involved somewhere

Could we go back to another 25 years of sporadic killing and grey endurance?

You bet

over Cloud 9. Of course there are problems. But Belfast is a kindergarten besides Jerusalem's raucous comprehensive Why, then, even as the odds against Middle East progress seem to lengthen by the day, do you still feel that the Jaffa Gate will find a dutable peace sooner than the Falls Road? Perverse perception - save for one thing. Thinking Israe-

lis, like thinking Egyptians, Jordanians and Palestinians, know that there is no alterna-

destroy Labour and leave the status quo is not an option. Somehow, whatever the management this show must jud der down a single road. Is that true of Ireland? Could we go back to another 25 years of sporadic killing

and grey endurance? You bet Dublin can do little to avoid it. This British Government and probably any British gov-ernment, cannot force UIster's Protestants to make concessions — and the leaders of that Unionist faith have ceased, over the long years of direct rule, to learn the disci-pline of making tough choices. They have a power of veto divorced from responsi-bility for progress. And they represent blumtly, an electorate used to living on the sub-sidies London provides. Peace may be highly desirable. But is it, at root, a necessity? Will it change the voting habits of a lifetime? Will it (don't laugh) see the Alliance vote bounce higher in the forum elections?

Bets may now be mordantly placed. What must be done, I think, will eventually be done. What may optionally be done, without great penalty, probably won't happen. Can you see that through all the you see that through all the circumlocutions of the process-makers? Only when the complexity of their trade, the jungle of jargon, is hacked down to size. We're talking necessities. We should talk them relentlessly, with chill

survive. Yeltsin's role in this included his declaration that Russian law had supremacy over Union law and his later collaboration with the presi-dents of Ukraine and Belarus to wind up the Soviet state as a way of moving Gorbachev out of the Kremlin at all costs. Still more fundamental, of course, was the legacy of his-

toric grievances of the minor-ity nationalities of the Soviet Union. This meant that, once liberalisation and democrati-sation had been embarked upon by Gorbachev, even the most formidable politician in the world (which Gorbachev surely was during the second half of the 1980s) faced long odds against preserving in-tact the borders he inherited. it might have been done by resort to massive force (as Yeltsin hopes will work in Chechenia), but this Gorba-chev refused to contemplate. It is ironic that it is for using insufficient coercion that he is blamed in Russia today, rather than for the several occasions when the security Each incident lasted one her advertisements did for night before Gorbachev put a stop to the state violence which, in most cases, was directed as much at him as at Anita Roddick than mere parthe more immediate targets and was intended by its prowho in August 1991 put Gor-bachev under house arrest to be but the beginning of a comprehensive crackdown.

ORE generally, Gorbachev is blamed for every-thing that has gone wrong since 1990 and even from 1992 onwards, a time when he has been out of office and president of a foundation. not a country. But for people who are tired of rising prices, with are time, non-payment of wages, massive corruption, the growing gap between rich and poor, the decline of public health and education services and much else, there is a tendency to blame not only Yeltsin, under whose jurisdiction most of this has occurred, but also Gorbachev for embarking on a path of radical change in the first

It is quite possible that Gor-bachev, if he is given the requisite television time (and especially if he has learned the art of sound-bites or, at any rate, to speak more con-cisely than in the past), will be a more serious challenger for the democratic vote than most observers currently ex-pect. He will be attacked in equal measure by the Communists, the nationalists and the Yelisin camp; but to be attacked, rather than ignored, could be an advantage (as Yeltsin discovered during the

perestroika years). Gorbachev has said that he would like to form a coalition of the democratic forces not currently represented in the Russian government. It remains unlikely that he will ever get the opportunity to do so, although the volatility of public opinion is such that his popularity could well rise from its current low level. But low, it is worth remembering that if Russians do have a choice of leader this summer, it is ultimately thanks to Gorbachev. As long ago as 1988, it was he who took the decision to depart from Communist norms and to move towards contested elections at the federal level, after which neither the Soviet Union nor Russia

Archie Brown is Professor of Politics at Oxford University and College. His book The Gorbachev Factor is out this

tive. What has been done already cannot be reversed. Nor can it be held in place indefinitely, whatever Likud says. The prospect of greater prospectity for all concerned lies just over the last ridge of the process in a world where **Shop became** process, in a world where regions which can't compete get eaten by Asian tigers. The past was not an option. The



Bel Littlejohn

NOCK it off, guys. It's 20 years since the lovely, lovely Anita Roddick opened her very first Body Shop, and good luck to her. But Anita's always had her knockers Now instead of her knockers. Now, instead of celebrating her great achieve-ment in making Peppermint and Wine Gum Ankle Lotion available to the ordinary man and woman in the street, they are predictably slagging her off as the arch-enemy of all

they hold dear.
But let's take a trip back in time to 1976. What would you have found in my bathroom in that long, hot summer? A bottle of Silvikrin, a bar of Camay, a tube of Macleans and not much else. But these days, I've had to put in a couple of extra shelves for my Body Shop products, includ-ing Jojoba and Smoked Salmon Lip Gel, Spinach Toothpaste, Lettuce Leaf Neck Scrub, Nettle and Artichoke Shower Foam, Camo-mile Tea Bottom Cleanser, Rum and Ratsin Moisturising Rum and Raisin Moisturising
Spirit, Porridge Osts,
Posched Egg and Fried Slice
Face Mask, Kiwi-Fruit Ear
Foam, Beetroot and Bran
Flakes Hairspray, Honeyed
Beeswax and Calves' Liver
Navel Rub, Ham Salad Knee
Scrub, Pressed-Goldfish Facial Mask, Keir Hardie Yucca
Hair Conditioner Asparagus Hair Conditioner, Asparagus and Sauce Hollandaise Eau de Toilette, Fruit-Gum Face Balm, Mule-Perspiration Lobe Massage Cream and Che Guevara Depilatory Lotion

with Vitamin E. 'Nuff said. Anita has changed the whole way we live and breathe. It's hard to imagine from the vantage point of today that we could ever have lived without Ari-ta's brilliant Mau-Mau Knee Scrub, but somehow we managed. And not only that, but she has changed the way we think about the environment. For instance, before I saw Anita talking so bravely and passionately on our television screens, I would never have thought of becoming a fully fledged American Express cardholder, but that was what

sonal bygiene. Let me tell you this. She has refused pointblank to stock a highly marketable all-over Mongo-Mongo shampoo and shower gel made out of the ear of South-East Australian mon-goose, and in so doing has ensured the continued sharp hearing of over 30,000 mon-geese, for whom hearing aids with their attendant wires and batteries might have proved prohibitively

Her campaigns are now leg-endary. In all modesty, I have had a hand in one or two of had a hand in one or two or them myself. I well remember Anita ringing me up one sunny morning just as I was scraping off my Phlegm of Young Aristocrat Walnut Fa-cial Scrub to ask me if I'd write her a notice to display in the free windows of Pody the front windows of Body Shops worldwide condemning Shops worldwide condemning the intransigent attitude of the British government to the plight of the Jojoba Indians of South America. "We have so much to learn from these people, Bel. if only we'd give them the time," she said. It asked her what we could learn. "I really didn't have the time to ask them," she explained. "But I think they may possess the wisdom of the anpossess the wisdom of the ancient secret of the perfect wash-and-go hand lotion."

In recent months, Anita has stepped up her campaign against the forward march of the global multinationals and the increasing homogenisation of international mer-chandising by sticking up identical protest notices in her 1,300 outlets worldwide (1,421 by the end of this year, if her current multi-million-pound expansion runs accord-

ing to plan).
And this is where yours truly comes in. As is widely known, my public-relations company, Bel and Frendz, has been associated with the Body Shop for a good many years now. In fact, in her fascinating autobiography, Busy Body (1992), Anita listed me as one of the five greatest influences on her life, along with Verdi, Rousseau, Harriet Harman, the Dalai Lama and Snoopy. Anyway, Anita and I have been banging our heads together to come up with some truly fantastic ideas for celebrating the Body Shop as it enters — can you believe it?! — its third decade.

E have managed to entice one or two very senior New Labour figures on board for a joint promotion. After all, both Anita and Tony share the same broad ideas on a stakeholder society and personal cleanliness. Have you ever seen Tony poorly ever seen Tony poorly shaven or with so much as a blemish on his skin? Likewise, have you ever seen. Anits snatching away a stake in society from a Jojoba In-dian? Nuff said.

exciting joint ventures. Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown - or Six O'Clock Shadow, as we (affection-Shadow, as we (affection-ately) call him!— has agreed to celebrate Body Day by tak-ing our All-Over Tangerine and Fizzy Lemonade Body Rub to the Despatch Box, while the lovely, lovely Peter Mandelson is all set for a sixmonth job-swap with a mem-ber of the Vitamin B Shower Gel Tribe of East Africa. Happy Birthday, Anita — let's

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A choice of evils

There is only one serious candidate to be Russia's next president: Mikhail Gorbachev. So why, asks Archie Brown, is he such an outside bet?

uled for June, current opinion polls suggest that the choice will be mainly between two candi-dates — the current incumbent, Boris Yeltsin, who will combine anti-Communist rhetoric with some concessions to the policies advo-cated by the Communists; and the Communist leader. Gen-nady Zyuganov. The latter op-posed the liberalising and de-mocratising measures of Mikhail Gorbachev as vigor-ously as he has attacked the way in which the economy has been partly marketised and privatised under Yeltsin. It is not an attractive choice, and though there is some misplaced nostalgia in Russia for pre-perestroika Communism, for most electors it will be a question of whether their dislike of Yeltsin and worries about the condition of contemporary Russia are greater than their fear of the Communists and their memory that it was the heirs of Lenin who marched them for 70 years on a road to

N THE Russian presidential elections sched to bomb and shell the civilian to bomb and shell the civilian population of Chechenia into recognition that they are part of the great Russian family. So far the death toll from that venture is between 30,000 and 40,000 and its objective is no

closer to being realised. There are many citizens of the Russian Federation who would like a third option in the presidential elections.
And there is no shortage of aspirants — almost 80 at the last count. Yet the serious candidates in addition to Yeltsin and Zyuganov are probably not more than four ultra-nationalist, Vladimir Zhirinovsky (who increasingly, as over Chechenia, offers succour to Yeltsin); the young economist, Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of a centrist party, Yabloko; the military man and relatively moderate Russian nationalist, Alexander Lebed; and the first and last President of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Given that surveys suggest

quite strong adherence to many of the values of social

democracy among citizens of

tials are, to say the least. dubious.
It is, at first glance, strange that the most formidable politician to have entered the presidential contest, namely Gorbachev, looks so unlikely to reach the second round of the election. For Gorbachev not only moved from being a Communist reformer to a con-acious transformer of the

bers were among the most reactionary of Soviet Commu-

nists, its democratic creden

Soviet system, but also be-came, to all intents and purposes, a social democrat even while he retained the general secretaryship of the Soviet Communist Party. His reluctance to give up that office was based on his fear that, with a conservative Commu-nist at the helm, the party could become a powerful instrument in the struggle to roll back the political free-doms and democratising measures of the perestroika era. Gorhachev, it is now forgot ten, was the most popular politician in Russia for the

greater part of his time in power. Even five years after he became Soviet leader he commanded more support than Yeltsin, although their relative standing changed sharply during his last two years in office and Yeltsin moved ahead in May 1990. But nowhere. It is still possible to routend that the election of Yeltsin is the lesser evil, although that argument was on that potential support. The rover sank to as low a point of the Study based on consent rather than Sub-Warden of St. A. College. His book To College. His book To

Communist Party of the Rus-sian Federation attempts to do so, but as its leading mem-bers were among the most the opposition, was a highly popular figure in 1990-91; Yelt-sin, the chief executive, has been a disappointment and, as a contributor to positive historic change, not in the

same league as Gorbachev.
Why then does Gorbachev today start from a support base, according to the latest polls, of less than 1 per cent (even though he has already gathered the million signa-tures needed to contest the presidential election)? Part of the answer is that he has not been in the political fray of Russia during the post-Soviet years and has faded from the limelight. Yeltsin's animosity towards him is such that Gorbachev has been given little chance to expound his views in those parts of the mass media over which Yeltsin has influence or control More important, Gorbachev

is blamed by the nationalists

and Communists for the dis-integration of the Soviet the survey dats of the All-Russian Centre for the Study of Public Opinion also show

unpopular in Russia, al-though it was he who tried to preserve the Union on a new basis — as a genuine rather than pseudo-lederation. It was after all the unreconstructed Communists and nationalists, with their support for the August 1991 putsch, and Yeltsin who played a greater part in ensuring that a smaller and different Union,

Bishop Lloyd Morrell

has died aged 58, W35

an essential presence

in the Diocese of Chich-

ester, first as Archdeacon,

and then as Bishop, of Lewes:

but, apart from a few modest

books, he gave little cause for

being known in the Church at

large. This was no small ground for satisfaction to him

since the catholic tradition of

the Church of England in

which he was reared and which formed him does not

set much store by bubble rep-

utations acquired through

Throughout his long and in-

tensive ministry. Lloyd Mor-

rell was content to devote himself chiefly to those con-

cerns which he considered

proper to priest and bishop: pastoral care of clergy and la-

ity, prayer, teaching, hearing confessions and being some-

Apart from a spell as a trav-

The soul on

Shin Kanemaru

Tarnished gold of the godfather

father" of Japanese politics, has died after a stroke, aged 81. He had never been prime minister himself - though he had made and broken quite a charges of evading millions of pounds of taxes on his ill-gotten gains. Even so, major television stations broke into their normal programmes to announce his death.

Former prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa, the last man to be put in power by Kane-maru, said that the former godfather "had ideas the ureaucrats couldn't have Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto commented on his great ability to manoeuvre things to his advantage

But for the ordinary Japa-nese people. Kanemaru came to epitomise the grubby world of money politics, especially when investigators in 1993 discovered gold bars under his bed and unsarthed stock certificates and bearer bonds. all representing undeclared income. The fact that the first character of Kanemaru's surname stands for "gold" or "money" gave added point to the dirty discoveries. The godfather himself claimed that he was keeping the money to help realise his "dream" of realigning Ja-pan's political forces: the electurfing his Liberal Democratic Party out of office in Tanaka, the disgraced "Sho-July 1993 after 38 unbroken gun of Darkness" was felled

years or power. Kanemaru was unprepossessing to look at or listen to. He had a raspy voice, almost like a Japanese doing an impression of Marion Brando's ulate that he developed it almost to an art form, and many Japanese complained that they could not under-

was born into a family of sake brewers, very much the salt of Japan, and knew how to motivate and threaten people. After graduating from

Tokyo Agricultural University in 1937, he became a junior high school teacher. He was elected to parliament in 1958 representing the ruling Lib-eral Democratic Party and quickly learned how to play pork barrel politics looking after his own constituents and developing the connections that stood him in good stead in the smoke-filled back rooms where Japan's political decisions are taken. As he became a senior MP he duly picked up three cabinet posts. which are frequently awarded

plied threat or menace. He cians before the company went public. Takeshita lied to parliament and was eventually forced to step down. But the godfather went

from strength to strength. He pulled the rug from under prime minister Toshiki Kaifu in 1991 when Kaifu dared to propose political reforms to clean up the system. He backed Miyazawa, who be-came Japan's most interna-tionalist and most intelligent prime minister of modern times but also its weakest because he had to depend on Kanemaru's backing.

One important turning point came in December 1991, though its significance was not noticed at the time. Kanemaru's wife Etsuko died. He

The fine was the political equivalent of a parking ticket - 31,000 people wrote to the prosecutors' office complaining of a whitewash

have been rejected five or more times. None of Kanemaru's cabinet jobs was front rank, and in any case he never liked being in the frontdefend his decisions in pub

Kanemaru came into his own in the 1980s when Kakuei gun of Darkness" was felled by a stroke. Kanemaru propelled Noboru Takeshita to take over Tanaka's faction, at elected as prime minister.

In the late 1980s the tips of several icebergs of corruption surfaced. Takeshita was implicated, along with a host of other leaders, in the Recruit Cosmos scandal. Recruit's

cording to Takao Toshikawa, editor of Tokyo Insideline. that "he didn't know where his underwear was or what to wear each day, his wife did everything for him".

The storm that broke Kanemaru and the LDP burst in 1992. The godfather admitted that he had received an illegal "gift" of 500 million yen (£3 million) from Tokyo Sagawa cel delivery firm. He was prosecuted under the political funds law. limiting donations from a single company to 1.5 million yen, and was fined 200,000 yen, without having to appear in court

It was, complained one ex prosecutor, the political equivalent of a parking ticket.

HIN Kanemaru, for trick was to interpret the im- ing out cheap shares to politi- spread public expression of almost a decade the plied threat or menace. He cians before the company outrage, with 31,000 people writing to the prosecutors' office complaining of a whitethat Kanemaru stepped down, first as deputy president of the LDP, then from his parlia-

The storm did not pass, and Kanemaru, having lost his parliamentary immunity, was vulnerable to furthe questioning. In dramatic tes-timony from his hospital bed in November 1992, Kanemaru claimed to the budget committee chairman and other MPs he could not remember what had happened at a cru-cial meeting with the head of Tokyo Sagawa because "I drank three glasses of mizuwari (whisky and water)... Later, I had a few more. Under these circumstances I don't remember the discussion very well."

Given that the Sagawa group was reputed to have thrown lots of money around accepted the role of fall-guy for all his colleagues.

But his troubles were not over. Prosecutors, riled by criticism that they had not done their job properly over Sagawa, raided Kanemaru's homes and offices and there discovered the hoards of undeclared income. He was charged with evading 1.04 billion yen tax on 1.87 billion of undeclared income. His secretary Masahisa Haibara was charged with similar tax evasion, and faces sentence today (whereas Kanemaru's charges lapse with his death). Miyazawa, deprived of his

godfather and protector, was powerless and the LDP split and lost its majority at the July 1993 election. If a picture can speak a thousand words. the image of Kanemaru enter ing court in July 1993 summed it up: a pathetic old man in a wheelchair, looking



Decline and fall . . . Kanemaru enters court

suffered from diabetes and glaucoma and was unable to time. Officials described him as "a senile old man" and "lucid for at most two hours a day". His trial had been postponed several times because of his illnesses.

Whether his downfall will lead to the end of money poli-tics is an open question. Polit-

In his declining days, he that took over from the LDP. but it squabbled and split and the LDP took power again in a coalition with its old enemies the socialists. Increasingly there is talk that the reform o the system should be rolled back — because it will lead to "more corrupt politics".

Shin Kanemaru, politician, born

David Craig writes: Jim Perrin

is unable to make his own points without fulminating at

other climbing writers. In his obituary of W H Murray

(March 25) he asserts that in my book Natice Stones I am

that excellent writer. In my 41:

pages on him I in fact called

to Shelley and Keats, and said

that 'my respect for Murray's

understanding of the mountains ... could hardly be greater". I also took issue with

his Platonic or idealist philoso-

phy which, as I see it, ascribes the beauty of nature to "some-

thing underlying this world" -- a view with which I argue

respectfully and passionately. If

Perrin thinks this is "dismis-sive" let alone "abusive", then

he has no understanding of

either literary language or in-

tellectual controversy -

strange in one of our more eloquent climbing writers, whose life of Don Whillans we

have all been awaiting for

abusive" and "dismissive" of

elling lecturer for the Church of England Moral Welfare

Council during the war. his ministry was bounded by London, Brighton and the south coast. His first curacy, in Hendon, north London, se a character upon him of one to whom things happened which rarely befell others. bust character who once shot

at a hook - from which was suspended a particularly loathsome dead pig — on the wall of a butcher's shop, since the butcher declined to remove the offending corpse, the vicar having first de-clared: "No good comes to those who speak ill of God's

A wartime visit to Lincoln shortly after an air-raid. brought an exchange with a porter on the station: "I'm sorry to hear you've been having such a rotten time here in Lincoln." "That's all right. Sir, Bishop King is looking after us." Bishop King had been dead for 30 years. But it was George Bell, Bishop of Chichester, who discerned Morrell's monumental wisdom and rare holi-ness, and made him Archdea-

His devotion to motor-cycles was of practical benefit, and he would draw up, often unexpectedly, outside the churches and vicarages of mid-Sussex. He always brought cheer and encouragement to a hardpressed clergy and only rarely admonition, such as when he

riday in the parish. His own life was founded upon deep prayer and great self-discipline. Right into old age he preserved his habit of very early rising so that he could have time for his devotions before the daily Mass. For many years he was Pro-vost of the southern division of the Woodard Schools. He loved the schools of the division deeply, and was for ever available to harassed heads for discerning and reassuring

For 50 years he shared his semi-detached house in Hove first with one sister and after her death with another. It was a house which while clearly

Birthdays

many years now.

Richard Rodney Bennett. | philosopher, rector and chief composer, 60: Jennifer Ca-priata, tennis player. 20; Berpard Davey, weatherman, 53; James Diggle, classicist, 52: Julie Goodyear, actress, 51 Margaret Howard, broadcaster, 58: Eric Idle, actor. comedian. playwight. 53; Jack Jones, CH, trade unionist and pensioners' champion, 83: Shella Kitzinger, writer and childbirth educator, 67;

executive, Liverpool Hope University College, 39; Alison MacFarlane, statistician, 54: John Major, MP. Prime Min-ister and Leader of the Conservative Party, 53; Ruby Murray, singer, 61: Chap-man Pincher, journalist, 82; Flona Reynolds, director, Rural England, 38; Anne Stoddart, diplomat, 59; John Suchet, broadcaster, 52; Lord Tebbit, CH, 65.

LOYD Morrell, who | despising fashion and all but the most basic comforts, yet exuded a warmth of welcome long line of priests and lasty. Bishop Morrell left it only for holidays in Cornwall or Malta, where he was able to exercise his considerable skill as a photographer (and in

> heard a farmer's confession sitting on a haystack). He had an intimate knowl-

> Cornwall at least once he



Morrell . . . early devotions

edge of the waterways of England in general and London in particular. But it is for his intimate knowledge of human souls and of God's dealings a with them that he will be of people who had cause to bless his name.

Richard Eyra

Lloyd Morrell, born August 12, 1907; died March 28, 1996

Death Notices

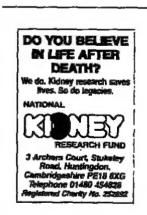
MACIUSZKO, Adeta much isked mathe and grandmother deal Turaday 26th o March, you be sayly mased MILLER, De Peter Lamont moed 64 or 24m March after a shart iffers at Paucife infiminary Bowed historial free and adored before of March and Fred and grand-ation of Massauget Prouds or Condition Memorial Service on May 1910 1396 at 23Jam at the Friends Marching Mouse, 43 St Geles Catord

Acknowledgments

In Memoriam

3.13

CHOUDHURY - PHILIPS The encape-ment as announced of Dr. Robert P. Chous-hary son of Dr. and Hars, J.K. Thoughur-of Kippan, Leeds and Dr. Rathel P. Per-lops second caughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Philips of Upinon-9-Choister.



Jack Churchill

Into battle with a bow and arrow

isted, it would have been impossible to invent than when patrolling the jun- the bow and arrow. his record would have been credible. Churchill, who has with the dull routine of peaceventurous few years in the Inbeen out of the army for three vears when war broke out in truly came into his own as a frontline commander of irreg-

ular troops. Irregular best described the approach to soldiering of John Malcolm Thorpe Fleming Churchill, born the son of a colonial public works director in Surrey, yet as Scottish as that other flamboyant commando leader, Lord Lovat. Both men marched into battle but whereas Lovat brought a piper Churchill played his own. And where Lovat carried a hunting rifle, Churchill was the first Highlander in centuries to go into battle with a bow and arrow, which was no mere stage prop. It is easy to understand why his men called him Mad Jack.

Educated at King William's College on the Isle of Man. Churchill was accepted for Sandburst and joined the chester regiment in Burma as a subaltern in 1926. Once there he took a motor-cycle to places where no machine had

gle with his platoon, showing the flag in remote villages.

To while away off-duty

Life back in England could company out of a trap in the out of hand but was brutally sentative of the Wordsworthian trumpet to a country priest in treated at a concentration tradition in mountaineering remonstration that no sertance, when he was also camp. So he tunnelled his literature, likened him in detail vices had been held on Good hours while stationed near travelled in many Mandalay, he persuaded a Europe, earning his keep him the bagpipes. What the He even represented Britain residents of up-country at the world archery champi-Burma made of kilted master onships in 1939. Recalled to



and rosring his way to and An irregular commander . . . Churchill in London in 1945

AD JACK Churchill, for across India for thousands the wartime commando leader, not existed, it would have training for forced marches that point that he also took up the first of the wartime commando leader, not existed, it would have training for forced marches trial and pupil playing their piths regiment, he took his bow at a war-crimes trial. But to war and used it to deadly others jailers took over, Churchill was fortunate not to fall that point that he also took up many gallantry decorations. effect. He won the first of chill was fortunate not to fall many gallantry decorations, the MC, when he fought his order to shoot commandos

He was back in England with his new, esoteric skills when his unrelated name sake. Winston, ordered the formation of the army comraids on occupied Europe late in 1940. A year later Major Churchill was deputy com-mander of a mixed force which staged a raid on

> Like some reincarnation of Rob Roy, he led his men ashore to the sound of his own bagpines, festooned with claymore and dirk. His philosophy was to be seen leading from the front, inspiring his man and frightening the enemy. He succeeded in both aims and went on to win a double DSO.

> While recovering from wounds in 1941, Churchill married Rosamund Denny, the mother of their two son In 1945, as a lieutenant-colo-nel, he took charge of Number 2 Commando for the landings in Sicily and Italy, where he and his unit prevented the Sa-lerno beachhead from being

> Leading a mixed assault force in a raid on the Yugoslav coast later in the year, he was captured. His letter acknowledging fair treatment by the local German commander saved the latter's life

changed my life. For one

hour, three times a week, a whole bunch of big huge

romen wearing lycra/cotton

bodysuits and leggings in front of a full-length mirror, dancing our hearts out to Fer-

way across the Alps to join Allied forces in Italy. Japan surrendered before his new commando unit went into battle. Staying on in the army after the war, he gained his

On recapture, he was sent

to a proper PoW camp in Aus-

tria - from which be escaped

again, this time finding his

jumper's wings at the age of 40, to qualify for command of a Scottish parachute battalion. Returning to his substantive rank of major, the per-sonally modest Churchill achieved an old ambition by transferring to the Seaforths as a company commander be-Light Infantry as second-in-After difficult and danger

ous service of another kind in the British withdrawal from Palestine, Churchill returned to Britain and held a series of senior training posts, the last of which was as the founding commandant of the Outward Bound School. In civilian life he made a business of restoring old Thames launches.

Dan Van der Vat

John Malcolm Thorpe Fleming September 16, 1906; died March

myself getting depressed.

highest priority in my life.

Sylvia Law, town planner, 65; Prof Simon Lee, moral

that it was a topsy-turvy thing exactly to the reverse of our "normal" usages and procedures. For instance, "When the Chinese build a house, they start from the roof'; "When in mourning, they wear white"; "They write upside down, and right to left": "When greeting someone, they shake their



Here lies in fact the secret of the inexhaustible attraction which China and the West have always exerted upon each other; they stand at the antipodes of human experiment. It might even be tempting to compare their mutual Pascination to the magnetism that draws the two sexes together, but this erotic metaphor should probably be resisited here, since its inspiration is too narrowly western Simon Leys examines the Chi-nese art of writing in the New

its contents and use, is a major archetype within the male psyche: the exigencies of modern life are, however, gradually eroding the typical male's knowledge of the joys of shedding. This may well be contributing to the breakdown of modern society that we see around us every day. Heretofore there has been no suitable forum on Usenet where shedders can gather to pursue the furtherance of shedding. This newsgroup

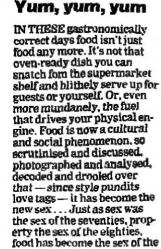
provides such a place, and will hopefully attract many of the unshedded into the hobby ... Though sheds appear throughout the English speaking world it is felt that Britain is their cultural

CHARTER: The group is for discussions relating to sheds and their equivalents (eg properly arranged celiars) their use, their contents, and the culture of shedding. While shedding has been, in the past, a primarily male pursuit we cannot deny that both sexes manifest aspects of both genders to varying degrees, so everybody is welcome in uk.rec.sheds. An outline for the proposed ukrec.sheds. newsgroup on the Internet. Thanks to Peter Byrne.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. Email jackdaw@guardian-.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR SER.

Dan Glaister

Jackdaw



nineties. It makes perfect sense to restaurateur Oliver Peyton: "People eat more often than they have sex. I think it is a feel-good thing ... People have changed their

ways of expressing themselves; their happiness is being channelled in a differ ent way. This is a new way of going out to a nightclub. Food s a new drug, a new high" . . . Our faith in God may have almost vanished and even ou trust in sex and property has been badly shaken (by disease and negative equity. respectively), but we will always need to eat ...

[Award-winning food writer Nigel Slater also be lieves that there is a considerable element of myth making and fantasy involved in the modern appreciation of food. "There is a lot of dream ing. You are as unlikely to cook exactly what is on the food pages of magazines as you are to have a home like something in The World Of Interiors ... Lake sex itself. you don't have to cook the food to enjoy it . . . Just as in the seventies it was considered avant-garde to talk openly

about sex, and in the Eighties it was actually thought interesting to brag about mortgages and obscure decorative finishes, in the nineties the emphasis is on pushing back gastronomic limits. Nick Foulkes picks up a takein Vogue.

Abundance THOUGHT I hated exercise.

My dad shoved it down my throat for 10 years, so subsequently I spent ten years refusing to do anything remotely resembling exer cise. Ultimate Frisber? Ski-ing? Sounds like fun, but it just might be exercise in disguise; can't have any of that, can we? Stubborn, I mean I was truly stubborn about the issue. Fat Girls Aerobics changed all that. Not my father's exercise, by a long shot. Officially, it is called Abundance, but I've always called it Fat Girls Aerobics or

want more sex, I never knew exercise could do that. And I The class is for women size 16 and up. Big strong women. Women who take up space. Women my size. FGA

ron, Bonnie Raitt, Neville Bros, Aretha Franklin, and more. It feels so amazing, I realise it is not exercise I hate, so much as the attitude that the entire exercise industry seems to uphold. I used to walk into Gold's Gym and I could just feel how much everyone hated fat. They were trying to rid them selves of every ounce of fat, and as a fat woman, I felt like the very embodiment of everything they hated. That doesn't make it easy to want to exercise... But now that I've tried FGA. I'm stunned. I love exercise, it makes me happy, I get high off of either the endorphins or the sweat or both . . . As I fell in love

with my body, I found that I was having a lot more sex.

was happier: the few times I

didn't go to the class, I found

my new-found religion. Some-thing about the smell of sweat made me want to ask every woman in the class out on a date, Pheromones rule my world. Fat Girl Aerobics by Debbie Ann Wertheim from the on-line zine Fat Girl (http://www.fatgirl.com/).

Back to front

CLICHES CAN unwittingly reflect deeper truths. Many years ago, a facetious coleague sent me a copy of an old cartoon . . . This particu-lar item dealt with China and presented an asortment of fanciful or semi-factual distortions about Chinese language, culture, history and customs. The interest of this cartoon was that it offered a fairly representative summing up of the popular perception of China in the Western consciousness. The gist of this perception was not so much that China was enigmatic, complicated, and

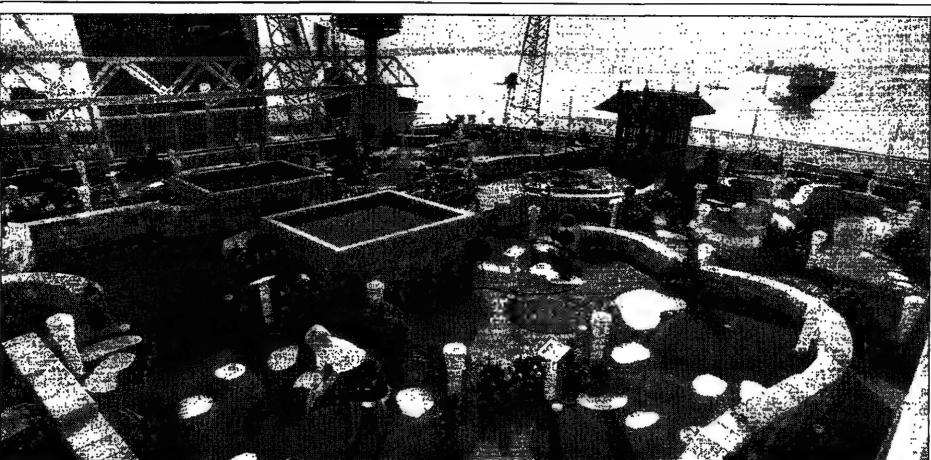
observations is actually

wrong. And the general con-

clusion is basically valid,

Shed speak RATIONALE: The shed, with

Finance Guardian



Top hole . . . an onboard golf course is one attraction of Royal Caribbean line's new 69,130-ton cruise ship Splendour of the Seas, which sailed into Southampton yesterday to begin a ropean summer cruises. Golf balls are biodegradable, so drives missing the 7,000 so ft of greens and bunkers do not pose a pollution problem

Mega-merger of BT with Cable & Wireless would create £33bn empire ● Mercury may have to be sold

Regulators ready for call

Chris Harrie and Mark Milner

JROPEAN and UK regulators were standing by last tiny of the prospec tive £33 billion merger be-tween BT and Cable & Wireless, a process that would almost certainly finish by requiring BT/C&W to sell Mercury Communications.

Mercury is BT's main UK comed by the cable television rival in the supply of long disindustry, which wants a

Profile: BT

Private

line to

profit

ROM Buzby via Beatie to Bob Hoskins, BT has

rate image since its privatisa-tion in 1984.

Having disposed successfully of its public sector appearance, the former Post

Office-run operation has

emerged as one of the stock

market value of around

Serah Whitebloom

vast

tance and international tele- stronger rival to BT in the posed on the restructured phone services to business provision of long distance and industry. and domestic customers. The trade and industry department, which is responsible for issuing telecoms licences, could not allow the merger to go ahead unless ministers were sure that adequate competition for BT could be main

One distinct possibility is that the US telecoms group, AT&T, would buy Mercury. Such a move would be wel-

night's closing price.
Along the way, the group
has acquired many of the
trappings of the private sector

swish headquarters offices, a star-studded board of direc-

tors and criticism of chair

man Sir Iain Vallance's pay.
It was also one of the first

privatised companies to be at the centre of controversy for

employing a former Govern-ment minister — Lord Tebbitt — on its board after he bad

links with the industry while

The group has changed dra-matically in appearance but many of the people in BT are diebard former GPO employ-

Sir Iain began life in the

public sector. But a new phase in the corporation's life

appeared to dawn last year when Sir Peter Bonfield, the

head of the computer group ICL, was appointed chief ex-

Along with its state corpo-ration image, thousands of staff have been shed from the

company as part of its "release" programme. Ac-

cording to the 1995 annual

ecutive.

Original shareholders, who report, it now employs 137,000 bought in at 130p, have seen staff, compared with 228,000 their investment rise to in 1981.

international services. A more powerful competitor would give them a wider choice of international inter-The merger would be scru-tinised by the DTI, assisted by

the Office of Fair Trading and the telecoms regulator, Don Cruickshank and officials rom his office, Offel. The OFT examines compet tion issues, and Oftel would advise on its ability to enforce

changes in BT's operations. In the 10 years to 1994, the

company spent £20 billion on developing the UK network — more than £70 for every

second of the day.

Two pioneering developments by the company have been the introduction of opti-

cal-fibre and digital ex-changes. Meanwhile, the much-loved red boxes have disappeared but the average

customer has seen a startling rise in the number of working public phones.

There has been an increase of more than 30 per cent in the number of telephone lines in operation to a total of

BT also boasts that in many cases its prices have fallen

telecoms regulator, has criti-

cised the company about cer-

Its most significant run-ins

with the regulator have

centred, however, on BT's dominant market position

and its "excess" profits, which amounted to

£2.6 billion last year and are expected to be £3 billion this

26 million in the UK.

348%p per share at last | The years since privatisanight's closing price. | The years since privatisanight's closing price.

Both BT and C&W have alliances in Germany, where Veba has a 10.5 per cent stake in C&W, while BT has links with the utilities Viag and RWE which are designed to

Because of the scale of the

merger, European Commis-

sion officials would also seru

tinise the deal. The BT/C&W combine would also face scru-

tiny from regulators in Europe as it disconnected

Profile: C&W

back by

rows at

the top

highest-tech companies, with access to one of the world's fastest-grow-OR one of Britain's

ing telecoms markets, Cable & Wireless has a sur-

prisingly long history. Founded in 1872, as the

Bastern Telegraph Com-pany, it merged with Mar-coni in 1929 to form Impe-

rial and International Communications — an un-wieldy name which was

changed to C&W in 1934.

utilities, will have a key say in the outcome of the talks beween the two British compan ies — a position which it will no doubt use to influence the strategy of a merged group towards Germany.

Given the size of its holding

Veba, another of Germany's

Germany is not the only place where BT has posi-tioned itself to take advantage of the liberalisation of the telecommunications market

cent stake — worth £1.7

billion — in Mercury Com

munications, set up in 1982

as a direct rival to BT, and

a 57% per cent stake in Hong Kong Telecom, val-

In addition, it has inter-

ests in the Caribbean, val-ued at almost 21 billion, a

50 per cent stake in mobile

phone operator One-2-One, valued at around £800 mil-

lion, and a 13 per cent stake in Bell Cablemedia, one of

Britain's leading cable op-erators, worth around £80

million.

The main attraction of C&W, from BT's point of view, is that while BT is strong at home and weaker overseas, C&W is the opposite, with the Hong Kong Telecom stake in particular

ned at around £7 billion.

minstion of the European Commission's competition authorities to have a voice in vhat happens. At home, BT is one of the

portant links in Spain and Italy, too — a situation which

will no doubt add to the deter-

most tightly regulated compa-nies and has been embroiled in frequent and acrimonious rows with Mr Cruickshank. RT's domestic licence lists about 50 regulatory conditions. Mr Cruickshank is midway through a review of BT's

though it has competed ag-

to make any real inmade.

Lord Young's main achievement at C&W was his attempt to turn the company into a "federation" of worldwide telecoms businesses — an idea which has been quietly dropped since his departure. The pair's

making it a potent rival to American giant AT&T. However, a merger with BT would go strongly against the grain of how the company was intended to develop at its privatisation, since Mercury was supposed to be the main form of competition to BT

at home. Mercury, which won a li-The company's two best- cense to compete against year.

gressively on price terms with BT, it was never able

been paralysed by various boardroom rows over recent years, which came to a head last November, when long-running chairman, former Trade Secretary Lord Young, and his chief executive, former BP exec-utive James Ross, were both shown the door by institutional investors.

management style is said to have led to frequent clashes. Meanwhile, anyone who bought C&W shares on the company's privatisation in 1981 has cleaned up nicely. The shares, which were floated at 50p a time, had soared as high as 600p by 1989, while last night, they had shot up to 511½p — a new closing high for the

Britain may gain top operator



Edited by Alex Brummer

FTER so many false Astarts, Sir Iain Vallance of British Telecom and Rod Olsen, Cable & Wireless's acting chief executive, must this time carve out a deal that The stock market is clearly

optimistic. Before C&W was forced into the open last night its shares had risen som 7 per cent, creating the kind of chaotic market for which London has become infa-

Young and James Ross were ousted by institutional shareholders last November that the best solution for C&W investors and Britain — the latter an interest sometimes for-gotten in these matters would be a merger between the UK's telecom leaders. BT, which has enormous interna tional ambitions, would win a super-stake in the Pacific Rim through C&W's 57.5 per cent ownership of Hong Kong Tele-com, together with interests

in some of the most fascinat-ing emerging market econo-mies, from Israel to Russia. However, any such alliance will bring enormous regulatory obstacles. In the UK market, a merged £35 billion telecoms conglomerate would be required to spin off Mercury (and its shared mobile phone operation. One-2-One). Given the price tag put on Orange, which has yet to make a profit, there could be considerable recovery for BT in this.

The biggest problem is the jewel in C&W's crown: Hong Kong Telecom. If BT goes for the direct route, rather than plated earlier, then it would have the expense of buying out the minority in HK Telecom - long regarded as a

£5 billion poison pill.

There would also need to be some unscrambling in Germany, where Veba holds 10.5 per cent of C&W and BT has a strategic alliance with Viagand RWE. Untangling these knots

should not be beyond the wits of UK merchant banks. What is important, however, is that the merger is done and the champion which can compete on equal terms around the world with the Americans and the soon-to-be-privatised German industry.

Bank intelligence

regional shake-up, which will result in the loss of as many as 150 jobs, is bound to attract adverse comment in a week filled with redundan-

cies and downsizing.
It makes no long-term sense, however, for the Bank to maintain rather grandiose branches in regional centres simply for the purpose of distributing new banknotes and processing the old. The most important work done by the Bank in the

regions is through its agen-cies. These provide liaison be-tween the Bank of England and local industrial and comnercial communities, and act as an economic intelligence service, informing the gover-nor ahead of his monthly meetings with the Chancellor and providing background to the published Inflation

Indeed, during a long period in which the Tories unpicked regional economic institutions, the Bank's agents have been useful promoters of regional interests.

It is this network of agentical which the documents agentically in the second second in the second second in the second second second second in the second sec

cies which the deputy gover-nor, Howard Davies, who is responsible for the shake-up just announced, intends to build upon. In addition to as Manchester and Newcastle he intends adding offices staffed by four or five eco-nomic analysis in Cardiff, Nottingham and the outer London auburbs. Their duty, too, will

be to produce intelligence. The quarterly reports are to be drawn together in the equivalent of the US Federal Reserve's Beige Book and published each quarter, alongside the Inflation Report.

In some respects Mr Danier's restrictions of the production of

vies's creation of a regional economic intelligence net-work with its own publishing operation is likely to provide an important counter-balance to the rigorous and some-times highly technical eco-nomic analysis which goes into the Inflation Report produced by the Bank's economic director, Mervyn King. The Bank is now in the position of having two potential future governors, Messrs Davies and King, with their own economic support staff. What a disappointment then if Eddie George decides, as some Bank insiders believe he will, that he would like a second term, beyond July 1998.

EN years ago, Morgan Grenfell was among the first wave of British merof its hidden reserves. Now sche Bank, has followed suit by announcing to the world that it is sitting on some DM20 billion (£9 billion) of unrealised gains on its portfo-

lio of listed securities.
Lifting the veil of secrecy is an essential part of Deutsche Bank's decision to bring its accounting policies into line with what is seen as interna

tional best practice.

If, as looks likely, the other big German banks follow suit, the greater transparency could, as Deutsche's management board chairman, Jürgen Krumnow, argued yesterday, enhance Frankfurt's standing

as a financial centre. That no doubt is a nice gloss for an institution which came under domestic fire for shifting the focus of its investment banking business to London. But the core of the strategy is still Deutsche's de termination to be a global player, not to smooth ruffled feathers at home.

Storm over job cuts and price rises at utilities firm

Chris Barrie and Martyn Habsall

HE electricity and water company United Utilities raised a storm of protest yesterday when it unveiled plans to raise prices, axe 1,700 obs and sell businesses employing 4,500 people. United, formed after North

West Water bought the regional electricity company Norweb last year for £1.8 billion, is to increase power prices by 4.9 per cent and water charges by 5.8 per From April, the average

bill rises by £12.50 to £267.66, and water charges to £209. Until the takeover Norweb had the lowest electricity prices. It now becomes only the fourth cheapest. Its price rise contrasted with yesterday's anouncement by its neighbour, Manweb, of a 1.4 per cent price increase and a three-month extension of a price freeze at Midlands

Other recent price in-reases — at Eastern, York-pected variations in demand. es than United's increase. United softened the blow by extending its £6.50 rebate on water bills for another year.

The company said it was entitled to raise power prices be-cause of past "under recovery" at Norweb, a mechanism in the pricing system that allows firms to recoup



Chief executive Brian Staples said benefits from the merger would be passed to consumers in the medium term. On the short term. shareholders deserved a return on their investment in the acquisition. He hoped the job cuts, on top of 800 already announced, would be

Labour MPs, unions and consumer groups condemned the news. Shadow employment minister Ian McCartney said the taxpayer would be "landed with a huge bill for unemployment benefit as employees jobs are sacrificed to give a quick fix to the balance The job losses were also de-

nounced as "an outrageous decision" by Louise Ellman, leader of Lancashire County Council. She said: 'It is clear that profits have been put ahead of jobs and public But United's share price rose 14p to 614p as the City

Keith Harper Transport Editor ABOUR will today commit itself to the principle of public accountability

and ownership of Railtrack tics to unsettle the flotation. The long delayed plan will be spelled out by the shadow transport secretary, Clare Short, in a speech atSwindon, and not by the party leader, Tony Blair, who was involved last night in discussions on the details.

The plan is unlikely to shake the Government's de-

termination to go ahead with the flotation in May, but Labour sources were stress-ing that potential investors would be left in no doubt that a future Labour government would exert tight control on

Railtrack's operations.

It was stressed that the statement, which will be inluded in the pathfinder propectus next month, would not scupper the flotation. It would make clear that Labour

train operating companies to see that an integrated railway was maintained for the

Labour spells out plans

for privatised Railtrack

pany is to be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading because of the possible overlap between bus and rail services This was made clear by the rail franchise director. Roger Salmon, yesterday when he announced that National Express was the preferred bid-der for the Gatwick Express

National Express said it did not believe that the ownership of the two train companies would operate against the public interest.

The OFT is likely to con-sider the fact that National Express runs coach services to destinations served by the Midland main line, which runs from St Pancras station in London to Leeds, via Leicester, Nottingham, Derby

There is less likely to be a problem with the company taking over the 30-minute Gatwick Express service from London Victoria station to The proposed takeover of two rail routes by the National Express bus com-Gatwick airport. National Express has seen off a challenge for the franchise from Rich-

as well as a management buy-Adam Mills, deputy chief executive of National Express, said that Mr Salmon's decision was a welcome recognition of the company's expertise in public transport. He said its successful policies would now be applied to train and Midland main line

operations. If necessary, it would be prepared to give further undertakings. • The Transport Secretary,

Sir George Young, is expected to put the Crossrail project on hold, delaying the plan to link up west and east London for six years. The project has already cost £140 million and has been given a further £14 million this year for research. The 140 members of the project team are standing by to be laid off or transferred.

ard Branson's Virgin group

Clarke calls go-it-alone pound a 'terrible mistake'

Sarah Ryle

HE Chancellor, Ken-neth Clarke, last night risked the wrath of his party's Euro-sceptics when he mistake" for Britain to opt out of monetary union.

Under examination by a Lords committee, Mr Clarke ignored growing pressure and affirmed his commitment to the single

He said it was too early to judge whether the euro would go ahead in 1999, but warned that for Britain to rule itself out at this stage would hit investment. Offering some solace to

the Euro-sceptics, he demyth" he was absolutely was a single currency.

cern across the EU that no enough countries would meet the Maastricht critetary union. But Mr Clarke, one of the

determined for Britain to sign up for the single cur-rency from the start.

He acknowledged con

most pro-European Cabinet members, said foreign com-panies bad established themselves in the UK partly because it gave them a base inside the single market. If Britain was outside the single currency area the possible loss of investment was a "problem that would have to be addressed". Investors would need to be reassured that the UK

was still attractive and nied that he was in favour stable, said Mr Clarke.

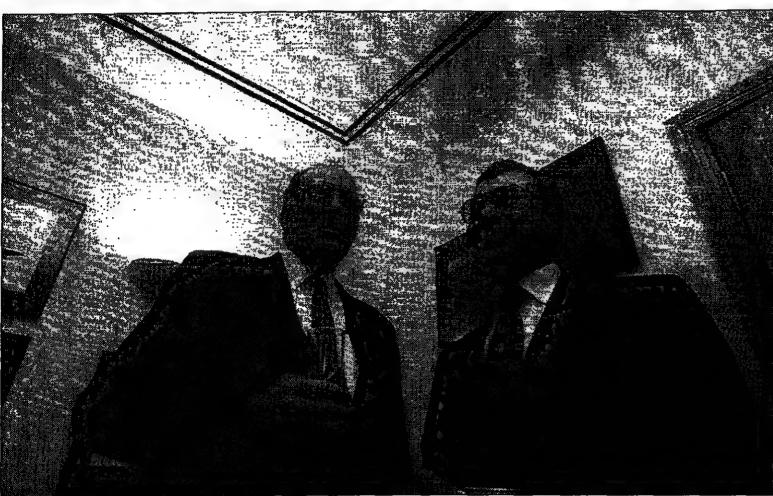
of Britain joining the single currency "come what may". It was a "complete have to increase if there

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS Austria 15.25 Belgium 44.80 Canada 2.0125

Frence 7.45 Germany 2.2000 Greace 362.00 Hong Kong 11.54 India 52.07

Italy 2,345 Singapore 2,10 Bouth Airice 5.88 Netherlands 2,4560 Spein 180.75 Sweden 10,00

Miners to benefit from company's early repayment of £368m debt



RJB surprise £100m buy-back means shareholders' bonanza

ning a bonanza for its shareholders folment of £368 million of bank borrowings used to fund the acquisition of the main coai mining activities of British

The company yesterday unmillion share buy-back to boost the share price. In addition, it revealed better than the company's employee expected profits and plans for share scheme.

accelerated dividend growth. Richard Budge, chief execu-tive, said that the bank debt would be fully repaid by April restrictions on its dividend

"Our dividend policy will be continually progressive from now on and our share-holders can look for better returns," he said.

The group's 10,000 employ-ees, mainly miners, will also share in the benefits of the buy-back and the larger divi-dends through shares held in

ceive about £500 of shares through the scheme, taking their collective stake in the company to over 5 per cent.
The group reported a more

than tenfold increase in pre-tax profits — from £16 million to £173 million — reflecting the inclusion of the former British Coal interests for the first time and higher than ex-The shares jumped 39p to

stockpiles, amounted to 41.9 | is not viable by October this million tonnes. Exceptionally high demand from power genweather at the end of the year boosted sales by about 3 mil-

lion tonnes, worth between £16 million and £17 million. However, he warned that demand was unlikely to be so high during the current year. The group also has problems at the new Ashfordby mine. where production has been hit by geological problems. RJB is investing £40 million

The group and City ana lysts are concerned about the long-term future of the coal market in the UK. particu-

Capital Markets, said demand tonnes by the end of the century, or even 22 million tonnes in a worst-case sce in the mine, which lost £18.3 nario. The good cash flow in million in the second half of 1995 was likely to get worse

Old Lady to axe Ambitious Deutsche Bank 150 jobs in the regions

■HE Bank of England yesterday added to the recent spate of job losses closing that it is to cut back its regional operations.

Concentrating its note dis-tribution and disposal operations in two centres - Debden in Essex and Leeds — will effectively mean the loss of 150 jobs and the closure of some distinctive Bank branches in the regions. including Manchester and

In future, the Bank's regional operations will be confined to economic and industrial liaison functions, requiring small professional staffs rather than an army of security officials looking after

The remaining banking operations in the regions. largely for municipal authorities, will be closed with the accounts being moved to the commercial sector

The restructuring, put in place by the deputy governor Howard Davies, will save the Bank around £4 million a year at a time when its staff. ing budgets have been put under pressure by govern-ment-imposed cash limits.

Much of the note distribution and issuing work has already been transferred to the commercial banking sector in

The Bank was emphatic yesterday that the closure of its branch network will not bring an end to its regional

Rather, it intends to expand its economic intelligence network by opening agencies in Cardiff. Nottingham and Greater London to supplement those in Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle and Southampton (replacing Winch-

ester). Small teams of economists will be based at the agencies its tot providing industrial liaison 18,000.

formation to the Bank's head-

The economic data is to be repackaged and published quarterly alongside the Bank inflation report providing a guide to regional economic activity. The first agent at the new Cardiff agency will be Sue Camper, 42, currrently chief manager of the Bank's Reserves Management Unit. It is thought that some

senior Bank agents could eventually be used to provide some regional balance if the UK were to move towards a Monetary Board system of some kind. Meanwhile, a report pub-

lished yesterday by accountants Coopers & Lybrand and the Economic Intelligence Unit warned that banks would axe up to 50 per cent of their workforce by the end of the century. Banking union Bifu has es-

timated that some 85.000 jobs have already disappeared from the industry in the past six years thanks to the twin pressures of technological change and mergers.
The report argues that

banks are planning to reduce staff in a drive to improve their productivity. It cites the example of NatWest which has already cut its UK workforce by 15,000 to 50,000 and expects another 20 per cent to disappear over the next ten

But, warns the report, the real staffing challenge for the banks will be to retrain their staff so that they have a whole new set of skills.
"In place of today's transac

tion handling and lending risk assessment will come relationship management. merchandising, infomation management and the ability to change," it says, Bifu said that some mem-

bers were planning protests this weekend about the latest

reveals £9bn worth of previously hidden assets

ERMANY'S biggest bank yesterday lifted the lid on one of its biggest secrets — a cool 20 billion marks worth (£9 billion) of previously hidden

The decision to unveil the size of the hitherto undis-closed reserves is part of the bank's decision to bring its accounting into line with international standards, which in turn is being driven by Deutsche Bank's global ambitions.

Under German accounting law Deutsche Bank's

torical value — some 30.2 | bad been expecting. The billion marks — but under bank is expecting that it international accounting will turn in a "satisfacstandards they must be valued at their market price — 50 billion marks. "The decsion to interna-

tionalise our reporting lies in the logic of our global strategy. The aim is full dis-closure of our figures and targets," according to the spokesman for the bank's board of managing directors, Hilmar Kopper.

The revelation of the reserves came alongside full year figures from the bank which showed net income rose by 23.6 per cent to 2.1 billion marks, the second best result in its his-

tory" performance in the current year — though it warned that the business climate in Germany would put pressure on lending margins and risks of defaults remained high.

However, Deutsche is looking to balance that with expansion outside Europe.

"We expect another in proved overall result for 1996, given the mobilisa-tion of available earnings potential and effective cost management. Business levels in the first two months of this year confirm portfolio of listed securities | tory - though slightly | us in these expectations, is valued at its lowest his- lower than some analysts | said Mr Kopper.

Lloyds TSB 'poised for deal in New Zealand'

LOYDS TSB is reportedly poised to acquire Trust Bank New Zea-land in a £600 million deal which may be announced as

Speculation immediately centred on how Lloyds TSB would pay for the acquisition. Chairman Sir Brian Pitman is understood to dislike the idea of a rights issue, and it may be that the deal will take the form of a merger between the two groups. That would be similar to the reverse takeover used by Lloyds to merge with TSB in their £15 billion

tie up last year. The move on Trust Bank demonstrates that Sir Brian has lost none of his acquisibank job cuts. Earlier this tive zeal, despite the fact that week Barclays announced another 1,000 job losses bringing its total cuts to more than than a year. In addition to the

tion, saying: "We simply cannot comment on market

But banking analysts said Sir Brian was known to be a fan of the New Zealand banking and finance system, and the country's economy. Lloyds bought the National Bank of New Zeeland in the 1960s and Sir Brian has often spoken enthusiastically about the acquisition's perfor-

If the deal goes shead it will also discredit rumours that Sir Brian was considering selling National Bank of New tax profits of £1.65 billion, Zealand. Some analysts said a

tenham & Gloucester building society last summer for fit with the UK mortgage business of the Lloyds TSB A Lloyds spokeswoman de-

Trust Bank, which recently confirmed that it was in merger talks with an unidentified party, is mainly owned by community trusts, with about 22 per cent having been floated on the New Zealand stock exchange two years ago. The trusts would have to were to be 100 per cent, so there was speculation that Lloyds might opt for a 50 per cent stake. In 1995, Trust Bank pro-

duced a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits. Last month, Lloyds TSB reported 1995 prerestructuring costs were inmerger with Trust Bank cluded. The bank has started would make sense because its a cost-cutting drive which, acorigins are similar to those of cording to banking unions,

than a year. In addition to the TSB. Trust Bank is heavily will cost 10,000 jobs and 650 TSB deal, it bought the Chelinvolved in mortgage lending.

Splitting off its music business is likely to cost Thorn-EMI £130m

Lisa Buckingham

HORN EMI expects to pay break-up and reorganisation charges of £130 million following the decision to demerge its music business one of the largest in the world with recording stars such as Janet Jackson and Survey and the costs musical at lower than expected tax charge, and other break-up costs. City analysts had expected a head-line figure of £100 million other break-up costs. City and other break-up costs and other break-up costs and other break-up costs. City and other break-up costs and other break-up costs and other break-up costs and other break-up costs and other

grass — from its high street | lion maximum. Thorn out- | but the group yesterday gave | and the planned treatment of equipment rental operation | lined yesterday. | no detail about the planned | share incentive schemes. which includes Britain's Radio Rentals and Rent-A-Centre in the US.

The costs include a lower

In addition, the company said that it would spend £25 million to reorganise EMI Music in North America and

another £30 million on the

business restructuring. Shares rose by another 19p

to 1673p even though the group said it would delay the demerger by three weeks

The break-up is expected to prompt a global auction for the EMI Music arm. Although Thorn denies receiving any serious expressions of inter-

Builders' merchant digs in for a lengthy and expensive battle

Outlook

Tony May

ingly endless recession, companies in the construction and build ing materials industries which expanded like mad in the eighties are engaged in a slimming race under the sio-gan "focus upon core busi-

Six years ago, when the long restructuring of the construction industry began, Redland had the advantage that it got half its profits from Germany, where a construc tion boom was in in full force. As recently as 1992 it had the muscle to spend £625 million on acquiring Steetley, a

Now, with the German building industry in reces-sion, Redland is wrestling with a reconstruction plan

years to pay off.

Last year, the company cut its final dividend by a third to give itself a financial cushion, and followed that up in Janu ary by issuing a profits

warning.

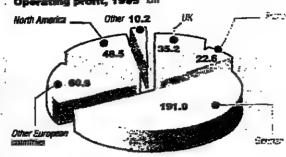
In February it said it was putting its brick-making division — Britain's the third biggest — up for sale, and yesterday it said four parties were interested. It is in "advanced negotiations" on a possible deal.

Redland ended the year

with profits at the lower end of City estimates, but said this that was a robust perfor mance given the tough and worstening conditions across its markets. For good mea-sure, Robert Napier, the chief executive, warned that 1996 was not going to be easy, and that the first half of the year would not match the corre sponding six months of 1995. He expects things to improve by the second half, but refused to state whether full year profits will move ahead of 1996.

half recovery in British hous-ing and a better market in Germany as new housing per-mits stabilise. He said: "It's amazing how quickly the

Redland



Last year there was a lot of destocking of products. We could get a rapid reversal." His long-term recovery plan is to focus on roofing and ag-gregates and, as a first step. Redland is talking with the minority shareholders of the group's German roofing business. It wants to put it less coated stone. Neverthe-together with similar less, Redland managed to businesses in Britain and charge higher prices in those

Restructuring the roofing and aggregates business cost £81.9 million last year, includ-ing a £16 million write-down on roof tile plants, and a £82.3 million write-down on the book value of Genstar, its aggregates business in Mary-land, part of which was offset by profits from the sale of

Mr Napier said last year had seen a steep decline in sales, although firmer pricing and cost cutting had softened the effect on profits. He said he saw some price recovery, but added that Red-land had suffered a slight ero-

sion of its market share in

sand and gravel, as competi-

He said there had been a significant and progressive decline in trading conditions ter of last year. The group sold 13 per cent less sand and stone. It per cent less ready mixed concrete and 7 per cont

Sales of root tiles feli - pr cent and prices fell further in the tough competitive condi-tions. The management took action to improve production processes and marketing but profits from roofing fell £20 million to £256 million. In a weaker housing ma ket, brick deliveries fell by 14

per cent, but because the group got its costs down profits at Redland Brick were simtlar to 1994's.

The City views the board's recovery plans as sensible but is resigned to a long wait for profits to recover. At least the group is big enough to sur-

vive the recession, which is

more than can be said for

Axe out after merger of statistical offices

Economics Corresponde

WO hundred civil the government's two statistical arms are merged into a single Office of National Sta-

From April 1, the Central Statistical Office — which has been producing figures since Churchill's time in No 10 and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys will be combined.

Tim Holt, head of the new body, said yesterday that staff from administration departments would be lost after the

ruled out, Prof Holt said he was hopeful most of the losses of existing employees — could omy — will be brought be achieved on a voluntary together in a single

"These are modest reduc-tions, in line with what is happening in other Whitehall | cost to business of completing

Outlining plans aimed as fice a world leader in the pri-vision of statistics. Prof Holt Britain - their births, mar riages and deaths; their social and economic situation; and

organisation."
Prof Holt also vowed to reduce the £20 million annual

their contribution to the econ-

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The Guardian Friday March 29 1996 Racing Mumm's the word for Sound Man

Ron Cox expects longer trip and change out of Zabadi at the final flight of the Glenlivet Hurdle. of tactics to work in Dunwoody's favour

down on several occasions at Aintree yesterday and there are almost certainly a few more surprises in store today.

Klairon Davis, Viking Flag-ship, Sound Man and Coulton, first, second, third and sixth in the Queen Mother Champion Chase, make up the field for the Mumm Melling Chase. It remains to be seen whether

for the Mumm Melling Chase. It remains to be seen whether things will work out the same this time.

An extra half-mile on this faster track and quicker ground, plus a change of tactics, can enable Sound Man to redeem his reputation.

Course which suits him well. Indeed, if his jumping holds up Coulton could spring a surprise. He should certainly give the others a good lead and this may play into the hands of Dunwoody on Sound Man (2.35).

Avoiding the novices who had touch races at Chelton.

tics, can enable Sound Man to redeem his reputation.

At the Festival, Richard Dunwoody had Sound Man in the firing line all the way and it did neither Edward O'Grady's seven-year-old nor Viking Flagship any good to energage in a head-to-head show the advantage of a less of the sound Man (2.35).

Avoiding the novices who had tough races at Cheltenham looks the best policy. Simply Dashing (2.00), who had to bypass the Festival owing to a bruised foot but is reported in fine shape again. engage in a head-to-head tussle after jumping four out. Both were forced into costly errors at the third-last and penultimate fences and their exertions told in the closing

stages. Klairon Davis, who had been left trailing when Sound McCoy, deputising for the Man and Viking Flagship sidelined Adrian Maguire and been left trailing when Sound upped the tempo, finished the strongest to win by five

HELTENHAM form with a weary Sound Man unwas turned upside able to do any more, over a length back in third.

Coulton could be the key to the outcome of today's rematch. Dropped out at Cheltenham, this habitual frontrumer enjoyed a confidence-boosting round and it will be a surprise if more aggressive tactics are not adopted over a course which suits him well.

At the line they had six lengths to spare over Our Kris. Nicholson heaped praise on 21-year-old McCoy, declar-ing: "I said to Tony, "Ride him for speed". It's his first winner for me but the rides he has given my horses have been tremendous."

Justice was done in the Sandeman Maghull Novice Chase when Ask Tom won in great style for trainer Tom Tate, who was forced to pull Lo Stregone out of tomor-row's Grand National.

The 15 lengths winner was a chance ride for Peter Niven. deputising for the injured Ja-mie Osborne who broke his left collarbone in a spectacular fall from Black Humour in the Martell Cup Chase.

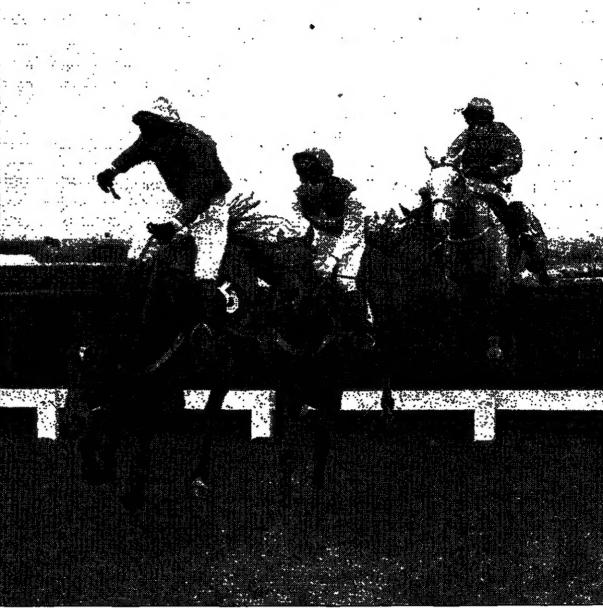
The victory of Scotton Banks here provided some consolation for trainer Tim Easterby and jockey Lorcan Wyer, whose intended National runner Toogood To Be True also had to be with-

and Turnpole (4.20) can show the advantage of a less frenetic build-up.

Tony McCoy, successful on Huncheon Chance (4.50) at Fairybouse, can follow up on the Irish hurdler to add to his 188-1 double here yesterday on Zabadi and Top Spin.

McCoy, deputising for the Mark Spin Bank blunder of the same and een left trailing when Sound fan and Viking Flagship sidelined Adrian Maguire and peed the tempo, finished the trongest to win by five engths from Viking Flagship, rides, got a tramendous leap terial next season.

McCoy, deputising for the where Barton Bank blundered badly, that Scotton Banks asserted his superiority. He could be Gold Cup material next season.



Steady ... Trevor Horgan and Gambolling Doc almost come to grief in yesterday's Sandeman Maghull Chase PHOTO MICHAEL STELLE

5.26 Mald For Adv

4.00 Monks Jay

5-98 Barton Gate

Ludlow (N.H.)

2.15 LEWITHALL RIVERGLE SURDLE 4VO 2m 62.444

| LEGIT MALL, SUPERLE, PURELLE ATU AN ANGEL 11-4
| MEM-LOUI-AND (9) (CD) MAE H Knight 11-4
| ALZOOMSO J Chover 10-12
| FP BEDS OUR TRUE! (8) Grasson Ros 10-12
| SFVA D McCan 10-12
| FRAMS LAD W Clay 10-12

11 ISS MENT BOY (BS) Mrs M Reveloy 10-12
12 IO TAMED MAN (S1) P Proce 10-12
13 R6 WOODLARDS LAD TOO (R) P Prochard 10-12
14 P LEZAPST (10) P Princhard 10-7
15 U TAP OR TOOTSHE (68) T Wall 10-7
TOP POWE 178-5 Kins-Lan-Land A, Highly Chemolog 7, Roy Bay 6
Bettings 7-4 Men-Lou-And, 4-1 Roy Boy, 11-2 Highly Charriang, 6-1
Spades, 20-1 Tango Man, Blya

2.50 MIDDLETON HONGE CHASE 250 01 22,579

22.-DO MIDDLETOM MONICE CHASE 2m of 12,879

1 120-5 MERIBERT BUCHAMAR (10) P Nichols 6-11-8

2 22-6 BOLD DOLPHIN (9) T Forest 6-11-7

3 PPI-MARROW WAY (76-9). Wells 6-11-3

4 P-0400 MASTER BURPHY (28) C Broad 7-11-2

5 F48-P65 MEDIT FAIRCY (18) MF3 N Woodsow 8-11-2

0 1550/-0 PLACID LAD (18) N Borry 9-11-2

7 PPI-33 TOO SHARP (24) Mics H KngW 9-10-11

TOP PORM TIPM Two Sharp 3, Nerbert Bushaman 7

Settings 8-1 Tao Sharp, 3-1 Bold Dolphin, 9-2 Nerbert Buchman, 8
Master Marrow. 25-1 Meriam Who

3.25 WHITTON HOVICE HANDICAP HANDLE 2m # 110yes E2,555

2.5 WHITTON NOVIGE HANDICAP MARGLE Int 89 110yd
SSC9-3 REPLAND GATE (193) G Belding 8-11-13
G-000 WYRRENG (71) T Forms 6-11-12
LEGOZ COSWELL STEPTOR (23) Marc H Kingti 6-11-4
40 GARRETY CRUSADER (23) Marc H Kingti 6-11-4
EM POLY BORREN (13) G Emmi 5-11-2
EM POLY DOREND (13) G Emmi 5-11-2
EM POLY DOREND (13) G Emmi 5-11-2
LEGOZ-1 RELAYED LAD (100) J PRESCA (7-11-1
LEGOZ-1 RELAYED LAD (100) J PRESCA (7-11-1
LIJI-ID BRATTELL SPRETT (16) P Hobs 9-11-4
EM POLY SEARCH (10) F HORS 9-10-11
45-605 INVERSAMK ROSE (23) W Clay 5-10-11
45-605 INVERSAMK ROSE (23) W Clay 5-10-11
49-700 MARTINESS COVE (27) G DONG 8-10-0
PLESSIFF GRADO CAROLINE (27) M Tale 9-10-2
POMBO-9 MARHESS COVE (27) G DONG 8-10-0
G-6000-F PLESSIFF CRUSE (13-0) J Cressvol 5-10-0
G-6000-F DESSIFF CRUSE (13-0) J CRESSVOL 5-10-10
G-6000-F DESSIFF CRUSE (13-1

4.35 GENETE HOYICE HANDICAP CHASE Son EXASS

BAYERD C Egerion 5-11-4

ARCTIC TRIMBINA M Bradstock 5-10-4

D FOLLOW DE CALL (154) D McCam 6-11-4

KRINGSLAND TAVERSIER O Stervand 6-11-4

PHARMANTES WAY D Mondage 5-11-4

PHARMANTES WAY D Mondage 5-11-4

ORIEV DAMPE S Brookstaw 5-10-13

MAID FOR ADVENTURE Miss H Kright 5-10-13

ORIEV DAMPE S Brookstaw 5-10-13

MAID FOR ADVENTURE Miss H Kright 5-10-13

ORIEVE DAWY (284) T Drome 4-16-17

Stregone out of Grand **National**

LLNESS has ruled the 6-1 second favourite Lo Stregone out of tomorrow's Martell Grand National. His trainer, Tom Tate, said yesterday: "He has been diagnosed as having equine flu and had a tem-perature of 104F this morn-

ing. It is a bit of an anti-climax — to say the least — and I could cry."

Lo Stregone had been at the forefront of Aintree betting since his success in last month's Greenalls Grand National Trial at Haydock.
That success qualified Lo
Stregone for a tilt at a
£58,000 bonus offered by
Greenalls if he went on to

score at Aintree.
Ironically, the Haydock
runner-up Tartan Tyrant—
also eligible for the bonus—
was also taken out of the
National yesterday as he is
reckoned to need softer ground by his trainer. Gordon Richards.

Jamie Osborne, who was due to ride Lo Stregone tomorrow, will also be out of action for a spell after breaking his left collar-bone when taking a heavy fall from Black Humour in yesterday's Martell Chase

at Aintree, The gamble on Superior Finish continues and Jenny Pitman's gelding is 11-2 joint favourite with Rough Quest with Hill's.

3.55 Paglinosio 4.30 Son Of Irla

Sedgefield (N.H.)

2.10 STOREGRAVE ACCREDATES HOV SELL HEAP HOLE 25 OF 110 rds C2,124

Betings 9-2 Blom A Fuso, 6-1 Seems, 7-1 Kitschalde Ltd, 8-1 Emilymoore, Clove Girl, Karaylar, 10-16 memoris, 12-1 Don't Tell Judy, Jost Phyllis

Suttings 3-1 Glenuge. 9-2 Enchantes Cottage, Any Dream Would Do, 8-1 Eriny, 7-1 Trettidder, 8-1 Superhoo, 12-1 Candid Lad Late Leader.

letting: 2-1 leegh Lad. 11-4 Pinal Hope, 7-2 Cuavisde Godago, 8-1 Politico Pat, 12-1 Baroan Owen, Fali http://de.1 Cusen s Chaplan.

ري خجما 6 بيوا

4-5 JOHN JOYCE RANDICAP HUNDEL 2m 14 E2,003

9024/-P DANGING HOLLY (72) R WOOD 5-11-10

P-SPG3 GLEIRINGE (22) (CD) G Moore 5-11-10

F-SDGU GYMCRAK SOWERSEGN (44) (D) G Notroe 8-11-8

2003-G SARY DEEAS WOULD DO (28) (CD) P Beaumont 7-11-6

(C310 LATIN LEADER (28) G Parker 6-11-5

101191 TRESHOOG (21) M W EASHIN 11-3

20042 SUPERFOO (4) (CD) R Cragge 5-11-0

20160 GAMDIO LAG (22) (CD) F Storey 8-10-5

012FOP GADEAUX PROMITTEE (65) Denys Strain 5-10-3

012FOP GADEAUX PROMITTEE (65) Denys Strain 5-10-3

FORMET TRES Ering 8, Superpro 7, Aur Dream Woods Do 8

O STOMEGRAVE AGGREGATES MOV SELL WCAP ISCAL
SZO-855 EMBLYROOME (80) P Bossmon 5-11-10.
(22935 FAVUE SATELLITE (16) MIS J Brown 5-11-2
(-2500 JOHANNI (60) MIS E SECK 6-11-3
(61-46) DASHBAR (41) J More 9-11-3
(61-46) DASHBAR (41) J More 9-11-3
(61-60) SESSO (21) J Waterwight 5-11-7
(61-60) MAJORTON LAD (16) J Parkes 7-11-0
(61-60) MAJORTON LAD (16) J Parkes 7-11-0
(61-60) SONT TIBL LUDY (61) MAS MIS MIS 6-10-13
(61-60) BLOWMA FURSE (14) JOHN II USOG 5-10-15
(61-60) MISSON OF LURIT (7) II Chee 6-10-3
(61-60) MISSON OF LURIT (7) II Chee 6-10-3
(600) KINGEN ON FURSE (14) WASON 4-10-0
(600) KINGEN PRIMOS (24) S Harra 4-10-0

TJF FURNI TIFTS Blown A Page & Cast'l Tail Judy 7, Coldrate &

2.45 JOHK JOYCE HARDICAP HURDLE 2m 1f E2,000

TOP FORM TIPS: Erley 8, Separtice 7, Any Dream Woold Do 6

1 2443P0 - BOREEN OWEN (247) (CD) D.A. Harrison 12-(1-9 2 5/114-F PHAL ROPE (7) R Tate 6-11-8

TOP FORM TIPS: Ivergib Lad B, Comyable Cuttage 7, Final Hope t

312432 HOUGHTON (30) (CD) JH Johnson 10-12-0 42(15-5 POPESRALL (12) (CD) Mins S Williamson 5-440(PS BOARDING SCHOOL (21) C Perter 9-11-5 43(8)3 THIN STATES (11) (C) J Tumer 7-11-4

1.30 REG AND RICLEY LAND MERIORIAL HARDICAP CHASE 22 SI 64,115

5.QQ JURP HTG SPENING WIP MOVICE HURBLE has 19 C2.873

1 20 ALIAS CHURBE (214) (IP) May 5 Senith 5-11-2 ... R Genet
2 5-260 CAMPTOSAURUS (190) D Alore 7-11-2 ... D Parker (3)
2 P-4 MICK THE BELL (443) J Whole 5-11-2 ... K Jones
4 P-2004 MILWAY (19) M Beanes 6-11-2 ... P Wangool
5 Q0-6 TRANSCENDISTIAL (23) J Culon 6-11-2 ... W Dwon
5 G-0-6 TRANSCENDISTIAL (23) J Culon 6-11-2 ... W Dwon
6 G-0-7 TURBAL (9) T Denovity 7-11-2 ... B Riseroy
7 P-40 DRAR BELL (13) J Swiers 6-10-1 ... Be in When
8 BAND-LOGAIN (2855) D Notion 6-10-11 ... D Will10 DWIN-Common (2855) D Notion 6-10-6 ... J. Callaghan
9 COSS ZARPETE (44) G Moore 4-10-8 ... J. Callaghan
9 COSS ZARPETE (44) G Notion 4-10-5 ... May P Marray (7)
12 PF PHERR FRILL (13) G Reity 4-10-3 ... May P Marray (7)
12 PF PHERR FRILL MOS (11) J Wallersight 4-10-3 ... May P Marray (7)
12 PF PHERR FRILL MOS (11) J Wallersight 4-10-3 ... May P Marray (7)
13 Restrings 7-2 Zagosto, 9-2 Alona Chutch, 5-1 Camptobaurus, Deer Everly, 7-1 Nijesy, 8-1 Transcendersol, 13-1 Logen

Brigadier Roscoe Harvey DSO, one of the most familiar and

Aintree runners and riders with TV form

tings 7-2 Sumply Destrong, 5-2 Jack Tanner, 11-2 jud ded Hawk, Sings Ehred, Astronal Boy, 25-1 Djain

2.35 HUMAN MELLING CHASE 25 4F 049,380

FOREI OURDIT - FLAHRON DAVISE Mectake 4 cut and 3 out, railed to less test, ran on strongly to bt VIRBAG.

P.AGSNP Lievelay B., with SOUND MAIN Reveloy another 138 every 3rd and COULTON Reveloy, held up tester 12 seasy to (Zheborstean 2m. Cd-50).

400.000 85586 Penaltons start, ran out easy 16' ejemey from Easy Back, left clear after GOULTON (Revelop bit 5 out when in the least (Ascal 2008). 300

85586 P.AGSSHEP Who took starts prior to Chellenham, at Kempson clear from 2 out when beating

3.10 MINNE MILDRAY MOVICE CHASE San 17 CES,888 11271/1 ADDRESTOR BOY (27) (D) G Richards 8-11-16 P-2721 AVRO ARSON (26) M Camesha 8-11-7 F11-11 HOL OFTUCKOW (76) D Michalon 7-11-7 128UP LINCKOWS LOTTO (16) (C) J White 7-11-7

Lingfield (Flat A.W.)

2.20 COLD AS CHARTY CLARENCE STAKES IN 44 52.416 14-321 E. VOLADOR (15) (CD) C Allon 9-9-5 02:16 SWEET SUPPOSIN (27) (C) C Dwyer 5-9-5 09 HYSTYC LEGGENO (16) 7 Naugeton 4-9-4 21:27 NASHWI (21) (26) R O'SUIVAN 11-6-10 20:10-20 GUEST ALLANCE (24) (C) A Moore 4-8-5 Bettings 13-6 Sweet Supposin, 15-8 El Votador, 5-9 Mesnun, 8-1 G 2.55 APPLE A DAY SELLIMI STAKES 1-21 C2,584

35 APPLE A DAY SELLIME STAKES 1m 22 62,584

012-00 AWESSOME POWER (30) (CD) J PER 10-9-4

10-10 MO SUBSESSION (3) (C) (D) D Chapman 10-9-4

10-302 TOTAL RACH (30) (CD) (W) R INGRAM 10-9-4

100-00 KENTAYRUS WAY (21) (CD) A MOOR 5-8-12

25-125 MORTHENT THAL (13) R BURG 8-9-12

147345- QUE HOUSE (2770) (CD) B GABY 7-8-12

142045- QUE

3.30 SPHIAL BLUTRIES ASSOCIATION HAMDICAP OF 25,341 4 003422 LORD SRY (6) (D) (BF) A Saley 6-8-7 3C-0635 KALAR (29) (CD) D Chapman 7-5-4 000613 TEROR (29) (CD) D Nicholis 5-8-2 Rettings 9-4 Stand Talk, 3-7 Spender, 7-2 Bargs, 9-2 Lord Stry, 6-1 Teser, 8-1 Kaler. 4.05 LIGHTWEIGHT PLASTERING HANDICAP IN CO.801

7.5 LIGHTWEIGHT PLASTERING HAMDICAP 1m. 02,681
0205-21 VICTORY TRAIN (2) (885 ed 6 Baltary 4-10-6
18500 LABIDO (2) (CD) F Ingram 5-6-4
03-142 RATTA SUBMINISTE (10) (CD) (BP) A Moure 6-0-2
05-5415 SARUM (2) (CD) C Wildman 10-0-3
0-2015 LAG RABY (14) (CD) J Amold 4-0-19
02056 MONTONE (15) J Jonkes 6-0-10
03-430 LTTLE SCARETT (3-0) (CD) P Moke 4-0-16
0-0-31 CALT (1-0) R Abstract 6-3-9
00-401 CALL TOPMONDE (3-6) (CD) C Morry 4-0-0
04-320 ZARRAR (13) (CD) J Backiny 5-0-4
1-3200 ZARRAR (13) (CD) J Backiny 5-0-1
0004 TOPMONDE (15) GL Moure 3-0-7
0004 TOPM SOURCE UP (37) G L Moure 3-0-7 ent TIPS: Secure 4, Victory Tours 7, Matte Sec 4.40 SPINAL MARRIES ASSOCIATION NAIDEN STAKES 1= 21 22,704

TOP FORM TIPS; State Circus & Carally Dressa 7, Authoral & Stations 11-13 State Circus, 11-3 Soviet Shore, 7-2 Carol's Bra Blangman, 12-1 Rubbysti 5.10 MALD COOT HAMBICAP 219 77 22,528

O-MAID COOT HARROWAY AT 9 1 1 100-100 (O-MAID COOT) METALES (3-6) (D) A BAIMY 6-7 1-4-7 MICH CAMARDO (2015) (CD) B PERFOR 9-4 2522 BARRAMOV (227) (EP) D MARTRY SWIDS 9-9 25242 DORSOON-109) (GD) M JURESHOR 9-5 15-76-5 MONTYS GRAB BRIER (4) K Nory 8-5 2003-5 ARLINGTON LADY (2) (EP) M Callaghert 7-1 TOP POINT TIPS: Articuton Lady S. Baraner 7

BBC-1

4.20 BELLE SPOOLE SEFTON HOVICE HURBLE Set 110yek (18,910 4.20 BELLE EPOGRE SEFTOM HOVICE HURBLE am 110yel
201 (0)-311 ARTHMENTIC (27) Mrs J Plana 1-11-4
202 307 BLAZE AWAY (27) I Balding 3-11-4
203 707 BLAZE AWAY (27) I Balding 3-11-4
204 207 BLAZE AWAY (27) I Balding 3-11-4
205 21-11-5
206 21-10 BUTTERE SEV (16) I Produce - 0-11-6
207 P-6470 CLAVERHOUSE (25) (3F) J Frederich 7-11-4
208 2-11:25 FATHER SEV (35) (3F) J Frederich 7-11-4
209 2-11:25 FATHER SEV (35) (3F) J Frederich 7-11-4
200 21-320 LUTTERY THORIET (18) J Erbeuths 7-11-6
21-320 LUTTERY THORIET (18) J Erbeuths 7-11-6
210 31172 PHARMANAR (17) (07) D Nechslen 6-11-6
211 FOR PLEASURE SHARED (17) (07) PHARMANAR (17) (07) PHARMANAR (17) (07) PHARMANAR (17) WINDOW (18) B-11-6
213 11 TURBULLE (44) INT M Revoley 5-11-6
214 21231 UNIOLE (18) INT M Revoley 5-11-6
215 2022P VARIET (19) (07) J O'Heid 6-11-6
217 0-2212 FLOW (19) (08) R BECKET 7-11-1
218 2022P VARIET (17) J OR 6-11-6
218 3022P VARIET (17) J OR 6-11-6
219 PORRE TYPS PRESENTED (38) (07) I Provide (3-11-6
200 BARGE 4-1 SUPPLIES RESENTED (18) I Tempole, 8-1 Butters
BOY, BLEZE AWAY, Father Sty, Waley Worley
PORRE GUIDE - SUPPLIES OF SIESK, Made of L. confortably, in VARIE (17) III CONFORMER (18) IN VARIET (18) I VARIET (19) I VARIET

J. Harroy

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A. S. Smith

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B. Pesnell CONNECTION - SUPERIOR SHEEK: Made of Loombrighty, or YAFAN (rec

4.50 CODERS HAMINGAP HURDLE 2- 47 C13,485

5.20 PERSON JOINET HANDICAP CHASE 3m 1/ 0/0,788 5-,2 O PERRIER JOURT HARDICAP CHASE Sen 16 EVQ.798

1 PASA-P1 PARRYTO (22) N Handorson 9-11-10

2 12111-3 MORROANS MARRIOUR (139) (MF) Mrs M Reveloy 10-11-8

3 25100 SELTE BEC (28) M Pice 7-11-4

4 1122-0 TARTAN TRANSMENDS (13) (0) G Richards 9-11-3

6 11-221-6 STROMA MEDICAM (17) K Satisty 9-11-5

6 F-PSILIS ALL FOR LUCK (7) (C) (SP) M Pice 11-10

7 PA-11TP BICAN PALDES (183) (D) J FEXDerad (16-11-0)

3 2-P2000 COMMENT BOY (27) (D) Mrs J Prosen 11-10-0

TOP FORM TIPS: Night Pagens 8, Brown Bindicker 7, Rengans Harbour 6

Bettings 11-4 Pashto, 7-2 Morgans Harbour, 5-1 Strong Medicine, 7-1 Tarten Trade

Results

AINTREE

2.00 (2m 110yds Hile): 1, TRAGIC
MERO, J Lover (20-1): 2, Charmsing GM
(14-1): 3, Cantile Samus (7-2): 3-1 bav
(Imanicky 15 ran. 4. 13, [M Pipe) Total
(37-2): 26-40, E2-22, E1-80. Date F: 1767-30.
CSF: E251.39, Trio: E353.00.
Wyer (9-2): 2, Barton Bank, (9-2): 3, Usgolded Minestic (7-2): 9-4 fav Couldet Be
Boster 6 ran. 15, 7, (Tastichyr) 104r E5.10,
C2.20, E2.10, Outl F: E14.90, CSF: E21.55,
3.10 (2m Girt): 1, ASK, TOM, F Niven
(10-1): 2, Lord Sheetet (7-3): 3, Cabic
Beach (11-2): 3-1 law Marhattan Castic. 10
ran. 15, 22, (T Tast) Totar F100, E2-50,
E2.20, E2.20 Date F: E3-10, CSF: 239.91.
Trio: E109.80, NF: Captan-Khodiva.
3.45 (2m 6f City): 1, 305 WHITE, P Car-3.45 (2m 6f Ch); 1, JOE WHITE, P Car-berry (33-1); 2, Go Universal (9-1); 3,

50.00. Dual F: 128.30. True Tirz.00. CS; SS4.93. NR: Escariolipus.

4.50 (2mr 17 Ch): 1, WIUDENF, G Storey (15-8 fav): 2, Coloniel Kelly (7-2, 3, Bally (16-8 fav): 2, Coloniel Kelly (7-2, 3, Bally (16-1), 8 ran. 4, 1. Mrs J Storey) Tota: 12.60. Ct.60, 52.50, C2.30. Dual F: 23.00 Trio: Cl.40. CSF: C8.97. S.40 (2mr 110yde Helle): 1, TOP SPHA, A P McCov (20-1): 2, Jethih (7-1) In-Lavy, 5, Usade Koussy (16-1): 4, Ambile Speedy (14-1): 7-1 In-Lav Treamure Again. 18 ran. No. 25, U Jenkins) Tota: C25.50, 54.90, P1.90, 52.20, 52.50, Dual F: C59.30. Trio: t1,889.20. CSF: 1183.00. Tricest: C1.902.44.

CSF: \$153.03. Tricast: \$1.502.44. QUARPOT: \$11.80. PLACEPOT: \$782.00 JACKPOT: Not won, \$18.676.48 carried for-

LEICESTER

2.25 (57): 1, UECHYD-DA, M Femion (5-1):
2, Irish Fiction (6-4 lav); 3, Swinno (12-1). 7
ran. 5, and (M Soil) 70to: 26.80; 25.80; 11.20.

Cual P. 17: 20. CSF EXLM.

2.55 (7-10): 1, 3-ARSTERA, J Weaver (9-4):
2, 17's Accademio (100-30); 3, Sestand Ladly
(20-1), 15-5 are Curson of All Bricks. 7 ran. 7;
35, 10 Graham) Total E. 25.60; 21.70; 71.60.

Cual F. 25.90, CSF: (10-39)
3.90 (6F 24.18): 46; 1-7; 17 FME FRESKY
FARMER, A Clark (2-1 co lav); 3, Casinestoscas
(11-2), 2-1 co lav Sharp Monty, 4 ran. 15, X
(W Turner) Total E. 10. Dual F. C. 10, CSF:
25.35.

4.00 (6T): 1, WESTYLAPS WEIGH, 1, Delicit (5-2 lav); 3, Californ Panics (2-1), 5 ron No. 6, (R Hollinsheed) Total E. 70; 120; Dual F.
23.90, CSF E10.73.

4.40 (10: Sf 183)yda); 1, METAMOUSS, 7, Cunn (11-4); 2, Sharaf (6-5 lav); 3, A
Likely Tale (3-1), 5 ran. K, 3 (P Cole) Total
(3.60, 12.90, 21.60, Dual F 22.40, CSF, 25.90)

HOTHUAT

2.15 (2m 1f Helle): 1, CHAI-YO, G Upton (2-5 lay): 2, Laura Lye (12-1); 2, Bourlea Patrol (17-2): 8 rgn. 3, 20. (J Old) Total 51.30; (1.20, (2.6) F1.30, Dunif C4.50, CSF; ra 36 28.34, 2.26 1 10 yets Cabi 1, JUTE, 7 Descends (6-2 av. 2, Aud El Auf (3-1); 3, Rese Cardes (20-1), 9 ran. 25, 9, (R Hospes) Tole (2-90-1), 10, 113, C3 90, Dual F. 24.60, CSF: 19.85, Trio 153.80.

popular figures in National Hunt racing, died yesterday at the age of 95. After riding as an amateur in Britain between 1923 and 1926, he rode in Egypt and India until the end of the Second World War when he became a Stewards Secretary, a role he fulfilled for 23 years. From 1951 until his retirement in 1969 he was a Jockey Club official. Banadowa 886 (11-1): 6 rgs. 9, 3, (P NI-chofts) Tota: C2-40; C1-50, C2-00 Doyl F. C11-00. C8F 17-46 PART 119-40.

S.55 (3m 11 Syde Hote): 1, ITS ORAND, S For (7-2 lay): 2, Risbog's Lase (10-1); 3, Davise Delight (8-1); 4, Prese Damoer (20-1) 16 ran, Nk, 14, Li Bradiey) Tote, C3 70; C1 10, C1-50, E2 10, C5,70, Dust F 517-10. CSF C38.48, Tricast 5281 01, Trice \$128.60. 4.50 (3m Ch): 1, ON ALERT, R White (9-1); 2, Oslden Freeze (20-1); 3, Ex-prosessment (11-1); 7-4 fev Loyal Note. 13 ran. 14, 1% (7 Groupsey) Tour Chi-2.50, 17 50, 55 30, Dual F, E141 30, Tric E159.40, OSF; £161.46 NR: Sansolito Boy. 5.00 (film 1f Helin); 1, PERSISTENT GUNNIER, T Descombs (13-2); 2, Jemima Pudisednek (5-2); 3, Out Runking (3-4 5ay 7 ran. 2; 5 IR Nogos) Tole. 10.70, 52 20, 52.00. Dual F: 59.60, GSF 521,94









might happen in the Euro-pean Championship if Eng-land do not turn the sort of

dominance they enjoyed be-fore half-time on Wednesday

into more than one goal. The

outstanding through-pass from Teddy Sheringham.

which sent in Les Ferdinand to put England ahead after six minutes, should have been the trigger for a rout.

After this performance

Sheringham is clearly des-tined to be the wise head on England's shoulders for Euro

'96. "People have said he lacks pace." said Venables. "but he sees things so early.

He passes things in to people

and he is good finisher."

Sheringham's understanding with Ferdinand was intuitive, begging the question of how automatic will be the recall of Alan Shearer, who

was rested with a grown in-

jury. for next month's friendly against Croatia. Shearer has a better first touch than Ferdinand but the

latter is more likely to be available in the middle for whatever Sheringham and

Paul Gascolgne provide. And Ferdinand, unlike Shearer in

his last nine England games

has actually scored. Gascoigne's was a rela

tively quiet supporting role on Wednesday but he was playing to orders. "He didn't

chase the ball as he has been doing." Venables explained.

"but he did show his class in

The England coach heaped praise on Paul Ince, whose

recall after a 13-month absence brought swift reminders of the tackling strength that had been miss-ing from midfield. Venables

wants Gascoigne to cover

when Ince goes forward, rather as Ray Wilkins used to do when Bryan Robson switched to the offensive.

all-round strength in a tour-nament dominated by special-

ists in the quick, incisive counter-attack. David Platt was among the late substitutes but if the Ince-Gascoigne axis continues to flourish he will find it hard to win

back a regular place.
Steve McManaman's willingness to swing in from the
left flank and beat defenders

with the ball, as he does for

Liverpool, was encouraging although he was another un-characteristically poor fin-

isher. His team-mate Robbie Fowler's first cap allowed the young Liverpool striker just

Venables will need Ince's

specific areas."

England in

Platt idling

gear with

David Lacey on

the upshot of the

Ince-Gascoigne axis

on the art of hitting a harn

door at 10 paces, and England

would surely be ready to face Switzerland tomorrow in the

opening European Champion-

ship game.

The principal benefit of Wednesday's I-0 victory over a largely docile Bulgarin was that Terry Venables can now complete his plans for Euro '96 comforted by the knowledge that his rebuilding days are over From now on where

are over. From now on, where the team are concerned, it

will be more a matter of ad-justment than overhaul.

At Wembley on Wednesday night England did indeed look

like a team rather than a col-lection of disparate parts, which is always a danger in

the first game back after the customary three-month gap in international fixtures. Eng-

land, moreover, looked like a side itching to get at the Swiss, Scots, Dutch and what-ever might follow in June. Such enthusiasm should

neither be underestimated nor taken for granted. Most international players tend to loll about in friendlies, and the Bulgarians were no excep-

tions.

Before half-time they appeared to have occupied the

Wembley dressing room allot-ted to Leeds United for last

Sunday's Coca-Cola Cup final and come across one of Howard Wilkinson's parables.

Their performance was a mix-ture of bemusement and

ennui, recalling not so much

their famous victory over Germany in the 1994 World

Cup quarter-finals as the

bleary surrender to Italy which followed it.

All the more credit to Eng-

land, then, for giving the match its competitive edge.

What the game needed, of

course, was a response in kind from the opposition by

which Venables's raw centre-backs could have been more

RING back Tony Ad-ams for Steve Howey. arrange an emer-

SOCCER: THE TRANSFER DEADLINE

Royle is not up to Leeds' **Speed**

lan Ross

■OOTBALL's purse

strings were drawn tight
yesterday as the annual only the barest flurry of

The combined effect of an inflated market and the rethinking of transfer strategy in the aftermath of the Jean Marc Bosman ruling meant there was an orderly queue rather than the tradiional scramble ahead of the

the only one to breach the £1 million barrier — saw the Georgian international forward Mikhail Kavelashvili move to Manchester City from Spartak Vladikavkaz to join forces with his compa-triot Georgi Kinkladze. How-ever, the transfer had been

negotiated some time ago.
On a day when honest jour neymen rather than superstars were on the move, most interest centred on the deals

that did not happen.
The club most anxious to invest heavily was Everton but after spending more than 48 hours pursuing lost causes up blind alleys, their manager Joe Royle shut his cheque book in disappointment yes

On Wednesday evening Royle lodged a bid of £3 mil-lion with Leeds United in the hope of tempting Gary Speed away from Elland Road. The Merseysiders were immediately informed that the asking price for the Welsh inter-national midfielder was a prohibitive £5 million. "I have never made any secret of my admiration for

Royle was also thwarted in his attempt to sign the Scot-tish international midfielder

John Collins when his offer of Celtic's valuation.

Despite a refusal to sell Speed, the Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson made no attempt to pour cold water on the suggestion that his club's embarrassing League Cup

final defeat by Aston Villa last weekend would precipi-tate an end-of-term clear-out. "What needs to be done will be done and with nine games left to play I can look at left to play I can look at ings to tide him over during changes we need to make to give us fresh impetus," he There were already two other

players may have to go." Rod Wallace would have been the first out of the door vesterday but he refused to ampton after a fee of £1 million had been agreed.

Blackburn succeeded with their £1 million offer for Gary Croft, the Grimsby full-back whom Gerry Francis once described as "the only two-footed player outside the Pre-miership". West Ham United added to their pool of foreign talent by paying Canberra Cosmos 260,000 for the Australian international goal-

keeper Steve Mautone.

Rangers are expected to sign Aberdeen's Dutch international goalkeeper Theo Snelders for £300,000 before the Scottish registration

deadline on Sunday.

Howard Wilkinson plans to stay on as Leeds manager in the face of mounting criticism. "I realise it is not going to be a bed of roses for me over the next few days and weeks," he told the Yorkshire Evening Post. "But I have never been a quitter.

you are right, you carry on. It would be difficult in future to stand in front of players and say all those things if I had

The season's final flings

Idilidadi Kawatashwiii Spariak Viadikavkaz la Manchester City £1.4m; thany Croft Grimsby to Blackburn £1m. Paud Passibleadide Stoke to Birmingham £400,000; Gawta Ward Bradiord to Boiton £200,000; Rim Grasti Cinarton to Lution £200,000; Paud £000 Corio Coronalia Esperatorough £250,000; Carl Garminia Portemouth to Peterborough £250,000 Carlo Coronalia Coronalia Coronalia Esperatorough £250,000 Carlo £200,000; Banti Lawre Loiceator to Wigan £125,000; Authorny Gallienore Carlotte to Crimeto F100,000; Blantin Grasy Sunderland to Oxion £100,000; Blantin £100,000; Blanti Johnson Sunstained Biospool to Scarborough free, Teeal & Francisco, 2.465m.
LDAN DEALS: Derek Allien Southampion
to Brighton, Craig Armstreag Notim Forest to Bristol Rovers, Lee Autoroft West
Brom to Notis County; Charifle Babbop
Barnsley to Burnley, Kewary Brown West
Ham to Palace; Feber Burller Notis County
to West Brom; Wayner Febroloogia Chesteritied to Scarborough; Blanks Flatte
Arsenal to Grimsby; Jan Hattheway Torquey to Chestoriolis; Wasters Louet Consoa to Leterster. Mare Jesseh Carbridge to Coveney. John Kay Sunderland
to Shrewsbury. Paul Blankon; Tottenham
to Bournemouth, Carl Maygleton Stoke to
Sheffled; Seott MedDoughald Brighton
to Chesterfleid. Paul Blitsboll West Ham
to Bournemouth, Carl Maygleton Stoke to
Sheffled; Seott MedDoughald Brighton
to Chesterfleid. Paul Blitsboll West Ham
to Bournemouth, Carl Maygleton Stoke to
Sheffled; Seott MedDoughald Brighton
to Chesterfleid. Paul Blitsboll West Ham
to Bournemouth, Carl Maygleton Stoke to
Sheffled; Seott MedDoughald Brighton
to Chesterfleid. Paul Blitsboll West Ham
to Bournemouth Carl Maygleton Stoke to
Sheffled; Seott MedDebrand in Southead;
Paul Williams Fochdain to Doucaster
Paul Williams Charling ton to Torquay.



The child in the sweet shop . . . Barry Fry yesterday spent some more of Birmingham City's money just as the door was closing PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Business as usual for Del Boy

Tom Evans on the latest bit of brinkmanship by Barry Fry. The manager made his 55th signing for Birmingham City just in time

that Barry Fry would confound himself and everyone else by not signing a player on transfer deadline day, normal service was resumed at 4,50pm.

The Canadian-born striker Paul Peschisolido, husband of Fry's boss, Birmingham City's managing director Karren Brady, returned from Stoke City for £400,000 10 minutes before the 5pm cut-off. Peschisolido had made the reverse move 18 months earlier but Fry is a past master at buying back those he has sold and selling on those he has

bought.
The standing joke in the second city is that the man-ager has had a revolving door installed in the changing room since taking over at St Andrews; given the volume of his transfer activity, that is not too fanciful a thought. Fry has now masterminded

55 permanent additions to the club, 27 sales and 14 loan sign-Brentford left-back Martin mobile, buy three Third Grainger (£400,000) and Division full-backs and Lat-Swansea City's defender John Cornforth (£350,000). Ian Richardson and Mark Ward were shipped out to Notts County and Huddersfield.

In a sport where a settled winning side seems to be the answer — as Birmingham proved at the start of the season — why does Fry do it?

Three weeks ago after a 0-1 defeat against Sheffield United, only the new (!) centre-half Gary Breen ("He tried to beat them on his own") escaped his wrath. Of the rest Jonathan Hunt ("crap") and Vinny Samways ("couldn't pass water") incurred two of the more printable criticisms. Given such wildly fluctuat ing assessments, a couple of poor performances can make anyone fair game for the

chop. As one player said this

fanzine Where's The Money

day in Barry Fry's life. 7.30am: Wake up. Go to the

Gone. It charts a mythical

vian centre-half. Wash

7.45am: Ring David Sulli-

van to demand more cash. Need competition for places

8.15am: Shower and shave.

Bid half a million for Kevin

"You've always got the

The first reason lies in his unique management style. a large squad and he is able to sign anyone he wants, you're always under a lot of pressure. Barry's a good motiva-tor but you can't really give your all for a man you know might be playing two or three other people in your position next week."

In a job as hazardous as football management, where five successive defeats can prove fatal, why should Fry not pass on some of the uncertainty to his ever-growing squad? By signing players more hungry for success than the last lot, he succeeds in bypassing such an outmoded

9.00am: Set off for St

9.15am: Arrive at ground

having bought three centre-

halves and five strikers

while stuck on the A38. 9.30am: Buy Kevin Francis

for £800,000. You can never

have too many centre-forwards, you know. 9.45am: Ring the tabloids

Andrews.

8.30am: Realise that I al- to deny rumours that Bir-

footballing concept as a | the most telling of all. Fry just coherent pattern of play. The second reason lies with the club's relative financial strength and the owners'

In his previous two jobs a Barnet and Southend, and be-fore that in his Southern League days with Dunstable when he had to remortgage his house to pay the players, Fry found his spending power seriously limited.

But when the fairy god-father came along, albeit in the portly guise of the chocolate-loving David Sullivan, Fry must have thought all his birthdays had come at once. Fry. not Sullivan, is the real child in the sweet shop. To be fair the books are

loves the buzz of buying and selling. He likes haggling with

other managers and he likes haggling with the players. Quite simply, he is the Del Trotter of soccer. And despite that and his mastery of the one-liner he is no fool when it comes to the players themselves. He watches them

Fry spends more time on the road than Jeremy Clark-son, and a testimony to his devotion to duty can be found in the answer-phone message at his Bedfordshire home. His wife's patient tones utter the words: "If you have a fax or message please leave

them after the tone ... and if reasonably well balanced, but you want to speak to Barry, perhaps the final reason is just phone the football club."

5.00pm: Set off for home. Traffic horrendous — and

that's just in the players'

car park. 6.00pm: Stuck on the A38

else whose name ends in "o". Sign Robert Busatio.

coaches.
2.00pm: Herd the squad on handling Juninho, Edto the training pitch. Make mundo, Zinho and anyone

3.00pm: Down the pub for late lunch. Had a pint of beer, shepherd's pie, two wingers and a full-back. "o". Sign Robert Busatio.
7.30pm: Feed the cat.
8.00pm: Sell cat and buy dog.

properly judged. When Bulgaria did snap out when Sugaria did shap out of their torpor Lechkov, Kir-iakov and Borimirov began to infiltrate England's defence in a manner reminiscent of A busy day in the life of a shopaholic the days under Graham Taylor. Kostadinov even beat HE following skit appeared in Leicester in the "Supersquad". Off-City's award-winning zine Where's The Money | ready have him somewhere | mingham City are chasing | 4.30pm: Back at the ground, flick through Rothins in the Second and Third mans Football Yearbook. | Wonder how they are get-Seaman in the last minute but the goal was disallowed for handball by Borimirov. Wigan Athletic instead.

8.45am: Ring David Sullivan to demand more cash.
Need competition for places from the Second and Third this season's edition.

enough time to discover that at this level even torporific Nevertheless, the brief defenders are several cut trauma of that moment

Albion to cash in on float WEST Bromwich Albion | ham and Millwall on to the are set for a £2.5 million | stock market.

lift tonight when shareholders vote on a proposal to float the club on the Stock

Exchange.
Provided 75 per cent of the club's shareholders give their scheme. Albion's chairman approval, the club will follow Tony Hale is also making a Manchester United. Totten further investment.

They will be guaranteed at least \$2.5 million from the flotation as the computer mag-nate Paul Thompson has

Tennis

Graf sails past **Davenport** into final

STEFFI GRAF moved closer to her fifth Lipton Championships title in Key Biscayne by beating Lindsay Davenport 6-4, 6-4 in the

semi-finals.
The top seed looked in un-troubled command of her game. She took three sets to beat Davenport in the semi-"I have always thought it important for players not to be quitters and, if you believe weeks ago but needed only 66 minutes this time. She con-verted all five of her break-

with a 103 mph ace. The chief threat to her supremacy at this tournament would appear to be Chandra Rubin. who beat Gabriela Sabatini 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 to earn a semi-final match with Karina Habsudova, an unseeded

Rubin, a 20-year-old Louisiana judge's daughter, appears to have the resolute temperament of a champion and all the potential she needs. She reached the semi-finals of this year's Australian Open and her No. 9 computer ranking is a career best. But she has yet to win a tournament.
Rubin has already made

one breakthrough here. On each of her two previous Liptons she had lost to Sabatini. "She's a much better player than she used to be," the Argentinian said. "She's playing great tennis." Jim Courier was another

former champion to fall in the quarter-finals. He was eliminated by the 15th-seeded Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch

7-6, 2-6, 7-5. In the semi-finals Boetsch will face the third seed and defending champion Andre Agassi, who crushed the unseeded American Michael

Sport in brief

Snooker Joe Swail, playing only

hands.

through a sponsor's wild card, won the last three frames to beat Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-5 in the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters in Co Kildare yesterday, urites Clive Everon. It was his third win in four matches between the two. Swail won a tense decider on the pink.

GOIF

MADEIRA ISLAND OPEN (Sarto de Serrat First reunel (GB/Ire uniess stated: 'arrainser;' SP R McFarlane: P Lyons, SP D Chopra (Swe), P Golding; I M Canizares (Sp.); S Gallacher: A Haveksworth; J Van de Veide (Fr) P G I Garrido (Sp); J Payne; T Gogele (Gar); M Besanceney (Fr); G J Brand; S Watson; A Hagismo (Swe); J McHerry; D Williams; J Garcia (Sp); TH R Jacquelin (Fr); C Suneson, I Pyman; D Cartor: A Humber: R Ruseal); J Coorers (Ang); P Lawria; G Raton: P Way; D Howeli; P Taibot; D Hogging; G Clark; N Brigge; P Harrington: A Za A Sobrinho (Por); C Post (Den); A Oldoron: A Sherborne; P Mitchell: S Luna (Sp); P Curry; R Claydon; V Philips, H P Thuel (Ger); P Affick; P Sjoland (Swe); J Sandelin (Swe); D Siva (Por); S Ames (17); P Fowler (Aus); M Davis; J Pinero (Sp); F Folk; Sp); C Soline; B McAllicite; D Ray; H Buhrmann (SA); S McAllicite; D Ray; H Buhrmann D Robertson; R Berhorst (Ger); A Lebouc (Fr); M Willer S Marchhart L Britheour D Recenters

iea (it): P Broothurat, R Busde (Den): M Archer; C Mail, 74 & Hendorgon, D Robertson: R Berhorst (Gen): A Lebouc (Fr): M Wilks: B Marchbank; J Robinson; D Borrego (Sp): M Roe; J Eales, D A Russell: M Tunnicitif: P Linhart (Sp). J Bickerton; S Tinning (Den): 75 T Planchin (Fr): S Struver (Gen): F Roca (Sp): P Heistolon (Swe): S Bottomiey; R Muntz (Heist): G Emerica; J Hoggarn; R Williams, S Fleid; M Anglert (Swe): T Sponce, 76 J Hodgarn; R Colles; L Batchelor; C Cassells; A Collison, T Bloro (Doot): J De Sousa (Por): S Gage; J Mailor; M Brier (Ant), 8 Tinning (Den): F Larson (Swe): S Burnell: M Hallberg (Swe): T Bloro (Swe): S Burnell: M Hallberg (Swe): M Plummer: R Disadale; M Walch: E Bolognesi (H): A Blinaght (II); J Wildener (LS): M Olivears (Por): A Kankhonen (Fin): 77 D Edkard (Swe): L Jahn (Gon): T Level (Fr): A Tinning (Den): 78 P Nymun (Swe): P Simpson, R Green (Aug): F Howley: R Goozon (SA): C Govern (Fr): G Chulmer (Aus): 79 J Carrela (Pr): N Caratheuro (Par): S Bennelt A

England and Wales assured

Results

ing the semi-finals. England | and Gareth Jenkins 7&5 in came from 13-5 down to beat South Africa 25-21, picking up five shots on the 19th end. They play New Zealand today. Wales, unbeaten in qualifying. meet Australia, who pipped Scotland on points difference. England's defending singles champion Tony All-cock will reach the semi-finals if he wins both matches today.

Golf

Two teenagers, Luke Donald, 18, and Michael O'Connor, 19, reached the semi-finals of the

Sunningdale Foursomes yes-terday by beating the holders Richard Boxall and Derrick Cooper 5&4 in the fourth themselves of medals in the world championship fours in Adelaide yesterday by reach-round, then Warren Bladon

the quarter-finals.

1.00pm: Ring David Salli-

van to demand more cash.

Still some first-team seats

on the fleet of team

note: Not enough strikers.

Division

Garry Kasparov and the 21year-old Bulgarian Veselin Topalov advanced to share the lead after five rounds of the Amsterdam tournament writes Leonard Barden. Nigel Short, also joint leader over-night, lost to India's Vishy Anand in a 45-move Sicilian.

Badminton

Anders Nielsen, the defending champion, has pulled out of the English National Championships in Norwich next week with injury to both knees. With it has gone all chance of qualifying for the

Madnick (Swe), 80 D Fisher, J Carvalhosa (Por), M Liton; D Freitas (Por), D Lynn; A hansen (Dwn), S Webster; J Gronhagen (Swe); G Ryall, 81 S Ribeiro (Por); C Agoshnho (Por); S Coulo (Por), 83 M McLean (withdrew after to round), 85 A Henriques (Por), 85 A Danias (Por), Retirod: L Westwood. Tennis

Basketball

388A: Mlami 95, LA Labere 108; Philadel-phia 103, Toronto 94; Washington 96, Indi-ana 99; Minnesots 118, Boston 121; Sal-Antonio 90, New York 84; Dellas 117, Hous-ion 114; Utah 96, Milweuker 82; Seattle 132, Charlotte 95.

Bowls

BOWIS
WORLD CHAMPTONSHIPE (Adelaide):
Fourns Selected Section A: Ireland bit
Australia 27-17; Jersey bt Cook Islands
24-14; Melavel bt Singapore 19-14; Sectional bit 21minshive 24-14; Australia bt Sincapore 29-11; Zenhabwe bt Cook Islands
26-12; Ireland bit Majuri 48-10; Sectional
bit Jersey 24-20. Section C Majarysta bt
Botswara 24-13; England bt South Africa
25-21; Swackland bit Guerrissty 21-14; Konnyn bit Iraliand 22-15; Sotswans bit Theland 22-16; England bit Swaziland 42-6;
Guerrissey it South Africa 18-17; Rislaysla bit Konya 24-14. Section by Wales bit
Angestina 19-15; Western Genson bit Fill
20-16; United States bit Irral 28-22;
United States bit Angestina 28-25;
United States bit Angestina 28-25;
United States bit Angestina 24-16. Cricket RANJI TROPHY (Madrae): Final: Second days Karnataka 471-4 (R Vijay 146, A Dra-vid 114, S Somasunder 99, A Vaidya 42) v Tondi Nita

Chess

VEREINIGDE SPAARRANK GRAND-MASTERS (Amsterdam): Recent fives J Laulier (Fr) 0, J Pikel (Neth) 1, B Gelfand A (Bel) k V Kramnik (Rust & V Topalov (Bul)

Cycling TOUR OF SARDIRLA (Caglieri): Second stage (circuit, 181.9cm; it unless stated): 1. O Abdulgsparov (12b) 4th 45min 34esc; 2. Svorada (C2); 3. M Roseato: 4. S. Martinello: 5, F Colonna; 6, G Citterio: 7. D Casarollo, 8, P Luttenberger (Au); 9, G Petito: 10, D Extebarria (Sp) all same time. Laseting overall: 1, D Zanatine 8th Somin 18sec; 2. A Safin al Zenc; 3, Y Berzin (Run) 4; 4, G Pierdomenico at; 5, M Frindrinet 6; 6, Roseato; 6, TM Agrinnello (6, Gitterior 9, st D) Renzi; 10, L Colombo all same time.

ice Hockey WORD CHAMPIONSHIP (Elektronol.
Lith): Peet De Belghum 5, israel 0.
HML: Hartford 5, Boston 6 (ot); Detroit 4.
Buttalo 2, Montreat 0, Washington 1 (ot),
NY Rangers 3, Florida 0, Ottawa 2, Philadelphia 4, Colorado 1, Winnipeg 3, Calgary
1, Chicago 0, Edmonton 3, Los Angelas 3
(ot); Vancouver 2, Toronto 8.

Snooker

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated) Soccer

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:
First Divisions: West Ham v Porsmouth
[2.0, Upton Parts.
LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier Divisions Drogheda Uld v Galway Uld (7.45);
Shothourne v Shamrock Rvns (7.45); St.
Patrichs Aut v LCD (7.45); Athlene Tn v
Bohemians (7.46). Rugby League

STOMES SUPER LEAGUE: Paris

that and play properly."

Ballesteros backs out

David Davies in Ponte Vedra

HE sad story of Sever-iano Ballesteros's at-tempt to revive his flag-ging career continues. After 1 holes of the first round of the Players Championship yesterday, when he was ap-proximately 10 over par, he withdrew with a sore back. After warning officials on the 11th tee here at the Tour-nament Players Club, near Jacksonville, Florida, that he would probably return to the clubhouse, he hit several halfhearted shots and then made his way to the locker room. Meanwhile, on a warm and

sunny day, Justin Leonard and Kenny Perry were the early leaders with sevenunder-par scores of 65, fol-lowed by the Australian Craig Parry on 66. Colin Montgo-merie was the best of the early Europeans, with a 71, Ian Woosnam had a level-par 72, Sam Torrance a 74 and Sandy Lyle a 76. Ballesteros made a forlorn figure as he explained this lat-

est setback. He winced constantly as he turned this way and that, trying to get com-fortable in a leather armchair. He was waiting for a physiotherapist to massage his lower back and then ice it. "I could not swing out there," he said. "I could not get the club back far enough and I could not swing it for-

ward properly. There was a pain in my back and, once I knew it was there, it was also in my mind. I tried to protect my back and you cannot do

Ballesteros had been able to practise before going out but by the 6th hole he felt the muscles tightening. He has been at the course, working to get that down after think-

long hours, since Monday and said yesterday: "Maybe I have hit too many balls."

Now, when he desperately needs tournament play to prepare for the Masters, he will

That is a temptation to a player who has just taken five months off and who is also trying to accustom himself to a new set of clubs. "Maybe I need another five months off ... or maybe five years ..."

It was no suprise when he announced he was taking a break but his performances since his comeback have been bitterly disappointing. Rounds of 78 and 79 in the Moroccan Open, his first event. meant a missed cut, and rounds of 71, 70, 74 and 77 in his next tournament, the Dubai Classic, meant he finished joint last with a player called Simon Hurley.

get no more this week. He still hopes to play next week's BellSouth Classic in Atlanta. Montgomerie summed up his round as "solid but not exciting". He hit two driver shots to the 497yd 18th for a birdie and holed from eight feet for par on the last to remain under par. Ian Woosnam rushed off looking for another driver, feeling he "lacked penetration" with the one he had used, while Sandy Lyle said: "You need your A game on this course and I only brought my B-plus one." He was out in a five-over-par 41

aged by his 35 home.

Green nightmare gives Roe a taste of the Masters to come

Michael Britten in Madeira

MARK ROE got a fright-ening foretaste of what could be in store when he makes his debut at the Masters at Augusta in a fortnight's time when the Madeira Island Open began

yesterday. The Sheffield player hit his second shot to Santo da Serra's lightning fast and wickedly sloping 18th green only eight feet from the flag. But, instead of the birdie he anticipated, Roe ran up a double bogey six by taking four putts. His first from above the

hole went straight off the green and after two more he was still six feet from the cup. "I somehow managed

ing I might never finish the 18th," he said after signing for a two-over-par 74 that left him six shots behind the surprise leaders Paul Lyons and Ross McFariane. Steven Webster, who won last November's Qualifying School, had five penalty shots in his 80 and for the

second time this season carded an 11 after driving into the woods at the 16th. He has not made a penny in his six previous events.

But there were smiles from the 28-year-old Lyons, who finished 46th behind Webster at the School but missed his Tour card by two strokes. He had an eagle and five birdies to head the field in only his fourth Tour event in nine years as a tournament

merly the Premiership

European and Australasian

The world play-offs were one of Super League's best ideas. But that tournament

and a resumption of Test foot-ball between Great Britain

and Australia will now de-pend on how soon Maurice

Lindsay, the RFL's chief exec

utive, and Ken Arthurson, the

sit round the negotiating table. At the moment they are

There is the question, too, of whether the game's follow-

ers will be seduced by "sum-mer" rugby. There will be no shortage of diversions, and the competition for publicity

this year will be particularly severe because of the soccer European Championship and

the Olympic Games. In many instances little will

have changed. Despite the high-falutin title of Super

League, a lot of games will be

played at grounds that non-

league soccer would scorn.

Possibly only Paris, London

and Sheffield — and they are only tenants at their grounds

will be playing in stadiums

not the best of pals.

clubs is now in jeopardy.

ear with Make or break with Murdoch Make or break with Murdoch

behind the first Super League season of summer rugby — and its £87 million question

ARIS St Germain | 12-team Super League season, and Sheffield Eagles | which gives each club 11 home games, is not long enough; 14 clubs might be the will take the 13-man code into a new and uncertain world when they meet in the open-ing match of the European mented by the domestic play-offs for the Stones Cup, for-

Super League season at the Charlety stadium tonight. Put at its most basic, Super League will be the making or the breaking of the game. The switch to "summer" rugby could be a master-stroke or it

could be a ghastly mistake.

At present the pessimists perhaps marginally outnumber the optimists. This is not entirely surprising in view of the turmoil in Austra-lia where Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, the backer of the Super League, has suffered a crushing and costly defeat in its battle with the

Murdoch, with an invest-ment of £87 million, is committed to the European Super League for five years — but now that his Australasian ambitions are in tatters, how long will the northern sideshow retain his interest? Clubs are still waiting for

the second round of Murdoch money, due in May, and no one actually seems to have een any contract between News Corporation and the Rugby Football League. No one in the game believes that Murdoch would pull the plug just like that, but then neither did the employees of Today

There are other fears. From a situation where too much football was being played, the

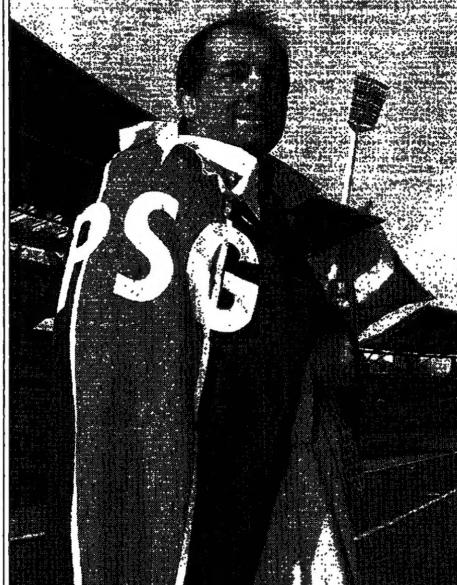
But the revolution had to start somewhere. Rugby eague, in spite of the quality of the product on the pitch, badly needed a change of di-rection, and Super League should provide it. Some spectators might be lost but the chance is also there to win a new audience and already there are signs that might be happening.
The players welcome the switch to summer, and stan-Trophy, but possibly not by the world play-offs. With the collapse of Super League in Australia that prospective bo-nanza for the leading eight

dards, now that all the participants will be full-time, should continue to rise. The clubs will have far more fulltime officials, too, and that time officials, too, and that should lead to a more dynamic approach to public relations, promotion and marketing. State-of-the-art stadiums might be some way off but we should see a steady improvement in ground

The players can practically be guaranteed to do their stuff. Wigan will no doubt set the standard again and they are odds-on favourites to win their eighth championship in succession. But although the rest of the clubs respect Wigan they are no longer overawed by them. Let the good times roll.

 Castleford have given their former All Black Franc Botica permission to play "limited" rugby union next winter under "certain conditions". The Courage league clubs Sale, Orrell and Mose-ley are all believed to have spoken to the lethal goal-kicker, now 32, an international at both code

The 12 Super League clubs are profiled below in likely finishing order.



Blaster of Paris... Tas Baitieri, the club's general manager, wears his heart on his sleeve before tonight's game against Sheffield Eagles

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW VARLEY

The doughty dozen

Coach: Graeme West Captain: Shaun Edwards Centenary Chiship positi Safford's cup win gave everyone hope, and Wigan may not be the force they were. But they remain the game's pre-eminent club. Class runs through the side and they have fine youngsters on the vay up in Rob Smyth, Steve Barrow and Andy Johnson.

ach: Shaun McRae Captain: Bobbie Goulding

Odds: 4-1 A real sense of optimism per vades Knowsley Road these days. If Saints can get their defence right and not lose their renowned attacking capabilities they might even be good enough to pip Wigan. But their erration nature always demands caution.

SHEFFIELD

EAGLES Coach: Gary Hetherington Position in CC: 5

Tend to make datt errors, but finished the Centenary Champi-onship on the biggest roll in their 12-year history. They know this is their great chance to win over a reluctant Sheffield public and they do not intend to blow it. A summer season should bring out the best in their Fijian signings. Man to watch: Andy Hay

LEEDS Coach: Dean Bell Captain: Neil Harmon

NatWest Access

NatWest Visou

Based on a credit limit of £1000.

BRADFORD BULLS ch: Brian Smith

Cantain: Robbie Paul Position in CC: 7 Odds: 16-1 Undergone massive change of playing personnel since Smith arrived last summer, but sur-prised everyone with the quality of their cup semi-final win over Leads. More than most they have understood and embraced Super League concept. A club now bubbling with enthusiasm. Man to watch: Martt Calland

HALIFAX Coach: Steve Simms Captain: Karl Harrison Position in CC: 3

South Seas signings Mike Umaga, Fereti Tullagi, Martin Moana and Asa Amone illumi nated the Centenary season and should be even more effective on dry grounds. Might lack overall strength of champions but capable of beating anyone. Man to watch: Craig Dean

Odds: 66-1

Position in CC: 10 Odds: 66-1

Might just be the surprise pack age. Now settled at The Valley Hard grounds should make their sizeable Australian continge feel even more at home. The club's best -- perhaps last -chance to show the capital what

WARRINGTON Coach: John Dorahy

Captain: Paul Cullen Position in CC: 9 Odds: 20-1 Depressing end to last season might take a season to recover. Will not want for enthuslasm with Alex Murphy as manager. Possess some of the game's best youngstera, but need more Input from experienced men. Man to watch:

Coach: Michel Mazare Captain: Pierre Chamorin Odds: 150-1

Dire predictions of a few weeks ago have changed into something far more positive. Carry hopes of a country rather than a city, and with a fine stadium, useful-looking squad and backing of Paris St Germain soccer club they may spring a few surprises.

Man to watch:

Frederic Banquet

OLDHAM Coach: Andy Goodway Position in CC: 8

Goodway has proved an admirable young coach, dedicated and ambitious, but may still lack the material to fulfil his aims. But team showed encouraging signs towards end of Centenary

WORKINGTON

TOWN Coach: Ross O'Relly Captain: Colin Amstrong Position in CC: Bottom Odds: 500-1

Most pundits' prediction to fill the last place they occupied during the Centenary season. Racked by financial problems and the subject of repeated takeover talk in recent months. Cumbria deserves a Super League club but a miracle or two may be needed from the new Australian coach O'Reilly to preserve their status. Stephen Holgate

Fouroux at the forefront of the French revolution

lan Borthwick on the union man driving | French band Touré Kunda will perform for an hour be-PARIS ST GERMAIN | the hi-tech Super League into Paris

> THE UGBY LEAGUE has never had an easy time entire clubs to transfer to league. It is reckoned that from cant only in a corner of the southern region of Languedoc, where the inhabitants of Perpignan and Carcassonne as treizistes. Until the fasttalking Jacques Fouroux came along, le rugby à treize was sinking into oblivion. If anyone can breathe life into it, it is Fouroux, former tain and coach of the France XV, and 5ft 3in of turbo-charged energy and rhetoric

with the spellbinding capacity to convince the most determined of unbelievers. At one of the first meetings he attended after his conver sion in 1994, Fouroux maintained a low profile at the beginning but by the end of the evening had the grizzled former players eating out of his hand as he explained their own game to them and how it should be played in the

future. He is now the force of Super League in France. Historically and politically the odds have always been against the 13-man game in France. Having flourished in the pre-war years, league was as strong as union when the second world war broke out. The French rugby union, accused of professionalism by cert beforehand. At the Char-its British counterparts, had lety stadium in Paris tonight,

league. It is reckoned that from 1937 to the outbreak of war,

coverage of league in France was double that of union. During the Occupation, however, the Vichy govern-ment outlawed it, decreeing in 1941 that from then on all teams must play a XV. League was still a major draw card in the heartland of the south of France, however, and nine of the Perpignan XV that won the French champion ship in 1944 transferred im mediately to league. But ieu à XIII, as union disparagingly christened it, never made up the lost ground, especially as the all-powerful Albert Ferrasse, president of the French union federation from 1968 to 1991, vowed to use all means

the map.
It is ironic then that it should be Ferrasse's former protėgė, the man he was grooming for the presidency and who had become virtually his adopted son, who is leading the resurrection at the newly formed Paris St Germain.

to erase rugby league from

Fouroux has promised an innovative approach in pursuit of entertainment. He has instigated "sport and musical events", where patrons get not only a match but a con-cert beforehand. At the Charbeen ostracised from 1932 to for the opening game against 1939, forcing players (including Sheffield Eagles, the Afro-

ticket to the ground. All seats are allocated to sponsors, who then distribute them as they wish. For example, the funky subscriber television channel Canal+, a major partner of Paris St Germain, has been offering free tickets to its subscribers, and according to Fouroux a specially designated phone line recorded 10,000 requests in 10 days.

The other major innovation at Charlety tonight is "video refereeing". Using the giant video screen, an umpire will replay any suspect or conten-tious passage of play and, with the aid of green and red lights, transmit his judgment to the referee. Fouroux believes rugby à

XIII has to start somewhere in building a following. In Tas Baitieri he has a general man-ager at PSG after his own heart - and steeped in the game, too. "Paris wasn't built in a day,

and this first season is very much an experimental one. an obligatory phase we have to go through if we want to create a genuine European competition," said Fouroux. "I believe that in tomorrow's world there will be only one rugby, and rugby à XIII has the capacity to appeal to a wider public than rugby à XV. PSG may not win the competi-tion but the spectators will be far less bored than those who watched the recent Five Nations Championship."



Extra time Edited by Jaronny Alexander

Another wild Shergar chase

- kidnapped on a February night in 1983 horsemen, policemen, con-men and journalists have tried to put flesh on the bare bones of the story. Hoaves have not belied.

Yet every so often a varia tion on the search for Sher-gar slips into the media. even if it disappears a day or two later. Last week a report on RTE's Nationwide programme stated that a con-sortium of Dublin businessmen — "one of whom is quite powerful" — had arranged for Shergar's bones to be exhumed from a grave Moreover the businessmen had done another deal, with

movie men from Hollywood. The Californians understandably want absolute verification that the bones are those of Shergar, not a pit pony. They need DNA; and the DNA evidence is in the hands of a dual third party: Mary Fanning, who broke the story on RTE, and Des Leedon, the head of clinical pathology at the Irish Equine Centre. Fanning, daughter of a senior police officer in the original investigation, said the cost of the identification

=VER since Shergar was | process to the Equine Cen-kidnapped on a Febru- | tre would be around £25,000. For some reason it has not occurred

Leedon says it is possible
"as we now have access to original material collected from Shergar before his don't have to go to Sher-gar's relatives to identify him. We can use source material from the horse before his presumed death."

And according to a man who should know, Shergar is dead. Sean O'Callaghan spends his days in Maghaberry prison in Northern Ireland, having handed himself in, but was once the IRA's chief of staff.

A few years ago Stan Cos grove sent a lawyer to speak to O'Callaghan, who said the borse had been killed within two days of the abduction. Cosgrove, with shares in Shergar, needed to know for compensation purposes and O'Callaghan signed a docu-ment to this end.

Cosgrove, one of many who know who took Shergar, never got his money. Ireland is a land of open secrets but not, as yet, open graves, not even with Hollywood on the line.

understands the currency: he

once threatened to kill Nigel

Short, and checks whether

his son's opponents are analysing in the loo.

The event goes ahead on June 1, with Saddam chang-ing out of uniform for the cer-

emonial gambit. It is called a

THE step from amateur to professional boxer can be momentous. Edwin Robinson

will hardly notice the difference when he changes status

at the Elephant and Castle

Leisure Centre on Tuesday.

Before stripping for action he will be selling tickets in the

degree is in project manage-

boxing is his first love. He works full-time in the east

London office of the promoter

Frank Maloney - very full-

WAYNE McCULLOUGH, Belfast's WBC bantam-

weight champion, usually has

a lady in his corner. But his

bax office.

Sixth column

OLTON and West War-wickshire are victims of their successful youth policy at women's hockey — or, as they see it, of the AEWHA's inflexibility. Led by the for-mer Great Britain captain Barbara Hambly, they have won promotion from the Second Division and reached Sunday's cup quarter-finals. But four of their number are representing England in the Home Countries Under-18 and Under-16 championships at

Milton Keynes this weekend. Robinson, BSc (Hons), is a Olton asked the AEWHA 24-year-old light-middlefor a postponement. When this was refused, their spon-In Fouroux's system of Ipswich. England's last match things nobody pays for a ends at 2.40 on Sunday. The club asked if the start could be deferred from 1.30 to 4pm. But rules, like dates, are set in stone, and exceptions prove nothing but trouble. All results have to be in by 4.30.

> ORBIT International took
> a call from Newcastle
> United on Monday: "We understand our ice hockey club have qualified for some championships this weekend," began the inquiry. They had: the Wembley summit of the British Championship. understand our ice hockey which Orbit runs for the BIHA. It must be hard for Sir John Hall to keep track. That day he was buying the New castle Comets, adding basket ball to his empire.

ONLY an eccentric would take a world champion-ship to Baghdad, and only Saddam Hussain put up £1.3 million for a chess series between Karpov and Kamsky, which the international federation Fide is passing off as a world title. It is a marriage made in megalomania.

Last autumn Kirsan Ilyumzhinov became Fide's president. As head of Kalmykia he seduced Saddam with a plot of land in the Caucasian ministate and befriended the American Bobby Fischer, former world champion, who had long alienated the US State Department Another plot has been offered for him to build a house in the shape of a rook. A The plot thickens in opposi-

the staging in Baghdad "immoral"; Iceland's and Israel's are threatening to quit; and the State Department has fected from the Soviet Union to the US as a teenager, that he faces a \$1 million fine if he competes in Iraq. Fide claims the UN has no sports sanctions against Iraq and the USSD is simply putting the frighteners on Kamksy. His ex-boxer father Rustam



Whitaker . . . tactical move? | dering if it was after 4.30.

wife Cheryl may find herself with female company tomorrow night in Dublin, where he defends his title. His trainer Eddie Futch got married in Las Vegas recently. Futch, now 84, fought in the Berlin Olympics. His bride is a 29-year-old Swedish masseuse.

MANCHESTER CITY have started playing reserve-team matches at Witton Al-bion Their secretary Bernard Halford said this week it was partly to preserve the Maine Road pitch in a winter of little rain but much under-soil heating to combat frost. "It's like putting a dry pie in the microwave," he said. In a programme he gave an

other reason: City were los-ing £750 a match at Maine Road Their first at Witton. against Huddersfield on March 4, drew a crowd of 176, some 300 less than Witton normally get. And Witton, who do not have to hire it, reckon the break-even figure is around 1,000.

According to last year's annual report, City had an accumulated debt of £18,781,453. Before long the fans will b chanting "Going up, going up, going up".

HE Olympic flame will be kindled in Olympia tomorrow. On Sunday six Britons will run with it for nine miles through the Taigetos mountains in Sparta - the first Britons to carry the torch since 1948. It is a centenary idea of the International Olympic Academy, the IOC's done time at the study centre in Olympia. They include Kevin Whitney, the official Olympic artist in London, who will record impressions for a later painting.

The flame will go round Greece for a week, Europe for three and then be flown (smoking, of course) from Greece to the United States. Branson has surely missed a

OT all hearts in the hier-archy of women's hockey are stony. After Wednesday's Olympic coach Sue Slocombe informed her squad that she and David Whitaker, the men's coach, were what David Mellor calls "an item". Christine Whitaker is won-

Odds: 11-2

Prospects should have been brighter than they are. But they have lost outstanding players in Ellery Hanley, Garry Schofield and Craig Innes and good ones in Paul Cook and James Lowes. Some fine young players on way up, but overall strength may be

ros backs

連載を付か もい ひゅった げ はげば

CASTLEFORD Coach: John Joyner Captain: Lee Crooks Position in CC: 8

Will be hoping Franc Botica's incomparable goalkicking will give them an edge in the tight gamee. Richard Gay, the former Hull full-back, should be another valuable signing. But may want for strength in depth. Unpredictability remains their great flaw. Man to watch: Richard Gay

LONDON BRONCOS

Coach: Tony Currie Captain: Terry Matterson

a great game rugby league can

Man to watch: Addan Morley | Man to watch: Gavin Allen

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Boxing

Benn coming back for Collins

Jack Massarik

HERE comes a time for every warrior to hang up his shield. The tricky part is recognising that time, something many a champion fails to do. Jersey Joe Walcott drew on bitter experience when he charted his own signs of decline. "There are three stages," he said, ticking them off on his fingers. "First your timing goes. Then your legs go. Then your friends

The time for Nigel Benn to go was surely on March 2, when he lost the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title to Thulane "Sugar Boy" Malinga in Newcastle. The fight went to a majority points verdict, but the stroyer, or is it? Didn't he final bell found Benn bleeding | come close to destruction | his facial contours — now | pion seems prepared to lose is from the nose and mouth, his | himself a month ago, roughed | back to normal — framed by a | his pride.

right eye clamped shut by a support of the size of a tennis ball. "I think I've done enough for British boxing," once have waded through? Ruud Gullit hairstyle and square-edged gold earrings. "Caroline's been very good, she understands I have to do he told the crowd that night. Not so, it appears. The Malinga business was all a case of mistaken identity. "That wasn't me in the ring." said

mediate comeback. Negotiations were under way, said Warren, for Benn to challenge the WBO champion Steve Collins, twice a winner over Chris Eubank, in England or Ireland before the end of June, possibly on the same bill as Malinga's next fight, and with the winners to meet

the gym." Benn in London yesterday as his promoter Frank Warren ment announcement that night? Surely as public and announced plans for an im-

Merely a strategic error, said Benn. "I trained too hard for Malinga, harder than for McClellan. I left the fight in But what about his retire

unequivocal as the marriage proposal he made on bended knee to his girlfriend Caroline in the same Newcastle ring? A hasty decision, since

revised in the cold light of day. "I don't want to go out a loser. I've been world champion for four years and I feel naked without that belt," said Benn, a relaxed figure in a loose-cut black pinstripe suit,

what I want to do. It's better than taking a year off then coming back and really getting hurt. It's not been a long time. I'm still young, still rarup, I'm still laughing and joking. I enjoy boxing. It's made

me wealthy, very happy and

Had his friend Frank Bruno influenced his decision? "No. I haven't spoken to him since Las Vegas, but I don't think Frank wants to retire either. He's still hungry. We'll see." The last thing a fighter loses, they used to say, is his

watching and millions at stake, the last thing a cham-

bortsGuardian

DISAPPOINTMENT FOR PUNTERS AS GRAND NATIONAL MEETING STARTS

Equine flu hits **Aintree** fancy

John Duncan

HERE will be 400 million viewers worldwide, £60 million wagered and £250,000 for the winning owner but there will be a mere 28 starters in the Grand National at Aintree tomorrow.

There has only once been a smaller field — the 26 runners in 1960 — and the most surprising withdrawal at yester-day's declaration was the second favourite Lo Stregone.

a victim of equine flu.
"Britain's betting shops should handle over £100 million in bets over the week end," said Ian Wassell of Lad brokes. "The Grand National's position as the busiest betting race of the year has strengthened in recent years, it now attracts almost four times as many bets as the next busiest race, the Derby."

A busy day too for the police, who have fears about possible IRA and Animal Lib-eration Front action to worry about. "We have to acknow edge that the Provisional IRA ceasefire is over." said Supt Ian Latimer, who is in charge of the police operation.

Supt Latimer will control more than 400 uniformed officers at Aintree, with 18 closed-circuit TV cameras covering every nook and cranny. Animal rights activists, concerned about the National's safety after a Chelten-ham Gold Cup meeting at which 10 horses died, are planning a peaceful protest today outside the main



Dress rehearsal . . . Go Universal and Graham Bradley lead the field over the Becher's Brook fence in yesterday's John Hughes Memorial Trophy as the three-day Aintree festival got under way. The eventual race winner, Joe White, is on the extreme right PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Emburey says no to England

Ted Burns, delivery driver for Ruddles Browery, came across them, and was able to guide them to the pub.

They spent the rest of the afternoon catching up with their old friends over a flavoursome pint of County.

Solution: They could have polated the sign book down the read towards Little Marton, the sign would then point the may to Chipping Shorbourne.

The Bells told them how they could have discovered the right way to go without Ted's help.

David Foot reports on how David Lloyd inched closer to a new job yesterday

AVID LLOYD is ex-English cricket's Test coach today. after John Emburey, his most serious rival for the job, ruled himself out of the contest yesterday.

Emburey, strongly backed by the chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth, pledged his future to Northamptonshire, the county he recently joined on a four-year contract worth nearly £250,000.

He said: "While being very bonoured and flattered at being considered by the I have decided, after careful thought, that I do not wish to be put forward as a candidate. | no objection.

"I feel at this stage of my career that I would benefit from gaining more experi-ence in a cricket management and coaching role. Having gained that necessary experi-ence I would be better qualified to serve England in the

Northamptonshire's chief executive Steve Coverdale said that the TCCB's chief ex-ecutive Alan Smith had on Tuesday asked the club for permission to approach Emburey to inquire whether he would be interested in being interviewed as a candidate for the job this season. Cover-dale said that the club informed Smith that they had

Ruddles County Riddles.

Last summer, Stephen and Jeanne Pecker, were on their way to meet

some very eld friends, the Bells. They had arranged to meet over a

refreshing pint of that king of ales, Ruddles County at the Singing

After passing through Little Norton, they reached a crossroads.

Their friends' instructions said "Follow signs to Chipping Sherbourne,"

But the signpost had been knocked over and they were unable to tell

And which direction to take.

Not having a map, they sat in their car

trying to decide which of three possible

roads they should take. After 20 minutes

Could you have pointed them in the right direction?

No. 4. Pointless Road Sign.

Lark Pub, deep in the countryside.

whether John would wish to be regarded as a candidate lay with the individual himself Northamptonshire fully sup ports John in his decision and appreciates the very careful consideration which he has given to the whole matter.

Emburey, conscious that his coaching CV did not compare with that of Lloyd, must also have been worried about the relative insecurity of an initial six-month contract with the TCCB when he was already guaranteed four years' employment, cutting his teeth as a county coach and manager.
Advocates of Phil Neale, the

only other serious candidats, are likely to be disappointed — although he would be an obvious choice if the TCCB ran into last-minute problem with Lancashire over Lloyd's

"Therefore the matter of release. Yet increasingly it ippears that the way is now clear for Lloyd's unchal enged appointment.



@

Neale, at present in Cape Town with Warwickshire, made no secret of his own England aspirations yester-

day, even though he was seemingly overlooked after doing an efficient and authoritative job in charge of England A in South Africa and India. He said: "The fact that I've no Test experience didn't stop me doing a good job out there and I'd love to be involved again in some way with England."

If Lloyd is officially appointed today he will assume his new duties with England almost immediately; he will probably return early from ancashire's pre-season tour of Jamaica.

If he makes an instant impression during the home series against India and Pakistan, Lloyd will expect an immediate lengthening of his Sport forges links between gin and it



Frank Keating

HAT was a cringingly rapid about-turn by Gordon's gin, and now it is to supply a clinking amount of bottles of its product to help launch Sir Denis Thatcher's biography. written by his daughter Carol. who claims Dad as the "most famous gin-tippler in the

I. having contributed the minutest scoop to the book — telling Ms T that her pa had been a sporting pioneer when. as a gawky touch-judge with the Middlesex Society of referees, he had travelled with the England team to Paris in 1956, the first international side to eschew the ferry and fly to a match — had kindly been invited to the party.
I will be steering clear of the

gin, however. It is not really a sporting drink, except for ven-erable golfers like Sir Denis and his "Dear Bill" buddy Lord Deedes — although I did once, years ago, play a village cricket match for Stroud Stragglers against Frocester when their smiter at No. 6 came in with half a bottle of gin in the back pocket of his lannels. He proceeded to swipe and sip with equal aban don and got out for around 60 when the bottle was empty possibly the only case of a oatsman arriving at the creas

ober and leaving it drunk. Gordon's marketing men did, in fact, once attempt to get their product away from golf's pavilions of olde Englande. Al-most 20 years ago Gordon's sponsored for a heady couple of years a County Champion-ship Wicketkeeper of the

It was too good to last Throughout the annual prizegiving, which was preceded by dinner in the company boardroom, we drank gin like wine, like water. The very definition of a piss-up in a brewery. Godfrey Evans was i 'c the sponsorship, which says it all. Stupendous nights — the wicketkeepers of England and a hic of hacks asleep at dawn under the boardroom table.

SUPPOSE the century's finest sporting figure whose life was a celebra tion of both gin and golf privileged to meet him twice.

after being introduced by Pat Ward Thomas, who can end these pages for so long that Longhurst prefer Ply mouth to Gordon's? Anyway, the results were the same at the end of the might Partold of how Henry in !

persuaded one on company or other to sponsor an amazour tournament in Killarroy to help introduce the frish in the beverage The players were followed by their caddless, who were in turn follows: by the journalists, who were them-selves followed by a local currying a bucket with a lid on it Put inquired of the reason for the bucket. It was for the ice, should any of the party need a smilter or two of the sponsor's translucent liquor

Pat went on: "Memories of that day and night are clouded, but I was told that Henry and I were dancing together on the lawn shortly before dawn. Meanwhile a policeman, presumably there to see that the licensing rules were obeyed, had stuck to his post with such a devotion to duty, fortifying himself the while, that he became uncon-scious, was lifted tenderly

into a truck and borne away When, after middle are Longhurst became a celebrated television commenta-tor in the United States, the terribly serious pink shirts and check slacks of US ourside broadcast were amazed that Henry's clubhouse form pink-ginned, pink-eyed, bow-tied and plus-foured — damaged not a jot, in fact unproved, his genrus at the microphone. His CES pro-ducer said: "What gives with this guy? He looks like W C Fields in drag. But happens to be the best in the business

N FACT, Longhurst was not exclusive to gin. In his dri ling 1958 essay The Nuneteenth, he began "I like to think of myself as somethin: of a connoisseur of clubhouse bars. What to drank presents me with no problem, for I have long ago settled for pank gan and soda before lanch - or champagne if I can afford it and whisky and water after six o'clock (5.30 in winter)

When he died. Henry by queathed \$100 for members to e provided with a large Sun. day morning "pinkers" at the pretty little golf club at Pyccombe near his home on the Sussex Downs, stipulating that the bottles provided should be in the old English measurement of Imperial pints. Why Imperial pints? To afford the opportunity of offering their wives a small

I dare say Dear Bill and Sir Denis played a round or two with Longhurst at Pyecombe And enjoyed a gin.

Guardian Crossword No 20,613

Set by Custos

future with the Test team. His easy affinity with Mike Ath-erton at Old Trafford is seen

And he will be intimately

involved in the radical

restructuring as recom-mended by David Acfield's

working party. It is now clear

that both David Gower and

Mike Gatting will have an im-

portant part to play as mem-

which also includes Micky Stewart, Bob Bennett and

ers of this working party

as significant.

Across

- 1 Giving the police a solid meal. say, being adequate (7,3,4) 8 Hastily make an approach before delivery (3,2)
- 9 Retiring Benedictine, perhaps, is coming round with small amounts (8) 11 End, we hear, with smear,

causing commotion (7)

- 12 Apprentice who's comparatively unproductive? That's about right (7) 13 Cruising on the motorway?
- Something 'elpful going to work (2,3) 15 Magic, achieving birdie when tipsy with ale (9) 17 Be busily active, irritated
- and cheated (9) 20 Refuse tea, very strong (5) 21 Eating away gives no-one painful back (7)
- 23 You used to be taken in by what? Bunkum! (3-4)
- 25 Long to steal something used in playful divination (8) 26 Shrub of more than normal
- size? That is right (5) 27 Relish and tolerate getting tossed in sea with impu-

Down

- 1 Opera fan, perhaps, initially overseeing new version of The Ring (5-7)
- 2 Recluse, a person protec-ted by left and right (5) 3 Cheeky devil having frolic with you abroad
- spontaneously (9) 4 Speculated — took great risks when about a pound Up (7)
- 5 Spanish noblewoman

giving greeting, one pleased to show up (7) 6 Fruit brought up in a t-taxi (5) 7 Warm and dry creature turns over in seaweed (9)

10 Exempt from accusation. 14 To procrastinate embar rasses me, O priest (9)

16 Like a compound plant that's wild in Helicon and the States (9)

18 Do a long shift in a boat (7) 19 More than one weightwatcher stops eating one (7)

22 Divine juice swallowed by heroic horsemen (5) 24 Final word to the French when about to depart (5)

Solution tomorrow

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